AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve the Farmer, the Planter, and the Gardener.

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHFUL, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN.—WASHINGTON.

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WORK FOR THE MONTH.

"I feel a newer life in every gale;
The winds that fan the flowers,
And with their welcome breathings fill the sail,
Tell of serener hours,—
Of hours that glide unfelt away
Beneath the sky of May.

The spirit of the gentle South-wind calls
From his blue throne of air,
And where his whispering voice in music falls,
Beauty is budding there,
The bright ones of the valley break
Their slumbers, and awake."

This is no dream of poetry. Percival saw what he wrote of, heard the murmurings of the sweet south-wind, and inhaled the fragrance of the flowers with which it was laden. We have seen it too, and felt new life within us, as we have witnessed the renewal of vegetation upon the face of the earth. What a boon is existence amid a world so full of beauty as this when spring returns! The waving verdure rolls along the plain, and the forest weaves its gorgeous canopy of green to welcome back again its long absent warblers. They come from the sunny south. robin, black-bird, blue-bird, jay, thrush and bobolink, to hail the month of May. Listen now, as the morning sun streams through the bursting buds of the forest. What varied melodies all expressive of delight and yet leaving the listener with the feeling that the songster has not told half the joy that swelled his bursting heart. The hesitation of the lingering spring is gone, and the work of growth is fairly begun. The leaves are out and the new wood is rapidly forming. The flowers are forth and the fruit is setting. The sere leaves that carpet the forest are thrust with many a spike of flowers. Insects are beginning to fill the air with their murmurings. The domestic animals hail the return of spring with gladness. They are no more pinched with cold or hunger, but go forth to the green pastures to cater for themselves. They find that variety of food in the numerous grasses, and shrubs, which is too often denied them when man is the provider.

Now the farmer sees already the advantage of good keeping during the winter. The oxen have strength to labor, and the cows have an abundant flow of milk. The sheep do not lose their lambs, and give promise of splendid fleeces when the shearing comes. The spring pigs have done well, and all the surplus ones are sold to the butcher, or to the villagers, who only raise pork for family use. He is sorry for the penurious man, who stinted his cattle last winter. He will be able to fill all his orders for milk, butter and cheese, and the season with him will be prosperous.

PLOWING

is not yet completed. The spring grains are in, but the potatoes and corn are yet to be planted. Plow no more poor land than you can manure well. It does not pay the farmer for his labor to raise twenty bushels of corn to the acre. Three times that amount is within the reach of almost every farmer, if he will deal honestly with his land. Feed the land, and it will feed you. Turn up a little of the yellow soil every time you take up a new piece of green sward for planting.

POTATOES.

Plant a good breadth of these this season. They should be put in immediately. We do not participate in the fears of those who apprehend that this tuber is to run out, or to be supplanted by some new esculent, more prolific and more valuable. This crop did remarkably well last season, and it is owing to its general healthfulness, that this article of food is now so cheap throughout many, of the country markets, say from 25 to 45 cents a bushel, and they are not dear in our largest cities. The rot has led to more careful cultivation and we think in a few years this tuber will regain all the ground it has lost. Old varieties have been supplanted by new seedlings, and these, for the most part are little affected by the rot under judicious cultivation. Less green manures are used for this crop than formerly and with manifest advantage. This crop wants a large share of carbonaceous matter in the soil and brings forth its maximum produce only in fields rich in vegetable matter. The largest yields we have noticed at our fairs for several years past, have been upon reclaimed swamps and peat-bogs. Muck used upon gravel loams is an excellent manure for potatoes.

THE CORN CROP

can not very well be too large. Do not be in too great haste to plant. The seed requires a much higher temperature for germination than the potatoe, and if the sun have not sufficiently warmed the soil, it will rot and the work will need to be done over again. Too early planting often does the injury, for which worms have the credit. We are confident, that nothing is gained by planting this crop before the second or third week in May north of this city. We have often seen as good crops as could be desired from planting the first of June. Corn is a gross feeder and will use on poorer soils 20 to 25 cords of stable manure to the acre. If short of this staple fertilizer, use four bags of No. 1 Peruvian Guano, or the same quantity of Superphosphate of lime, if you can get a reliable article. In using these concentrated fertilizers, be careful to keep the seed from contact with them. It is often destroyed or very much injured by their caustic qualities.

STEEPING SEED CORN.

The black birds, crows, and cut worms, all have a partiality for this crop, and lay a heavy tax upon the farmer's industry. Many afield is ruined by these pests, even after the green blades have made their appearance. The methods to forestall their labors are various. Steeping corn in salt-petre or copperas water will make it disagreeable to the birds, and possibly may prove some safeguard against the worms. Soaking the corn in water, and then rolling it in tar and plaster will also act as a preventive. But care must be taken in applying the tar, or the kernel will be so closely incased as never to germinate. In our own experience we have found insects, worms, &c., to multiply very much faster in old neglected fields than in soil well manured. We have been little troubled with worms after the first year of cultivation. Whether there is any thing in the gases that escape from the manure calculated to destroy the larvæ of insects, we are unable to say. Possibly the manure pushes the plant along so vigorously that it is able to resist attacks, that would otherwise prove fatal.

GREEN CORN FOR SUMMER FODDER.

We think no farmer who has tried this safeguard against summer drouth, will ever relinquish this crop. We were rejoiced to see, last summer in our journeyings, abundant evidence that more attention is paid to this crop. It comes just in the season, when the pastures are liable to fail, and helps out the fall feed in a most satisfactory manner. If there is a surplus it makes excellent fodder for winter. The best way to cultivate it, is in drills thirty inches apart. This gives an opportunity for cultivation during the early growth of the corn, and the yield is larger. Sweet corn is by many esteemed better than the common field corn for this purpose, especially Stowells Evergreen.

GREEN CORN FOR HOGS.

We have used this crop for feeding swine

during August and September, for several years. They devour every particle of stalk and leaf with as much relish as neat stock, and with as much benefit. It makes cheap pork, and of excellent quality. Plant half an acre of Sweet corn, and feed it out in those months to your fattening swine, and we venture to say, you will not need our exhortation to repeat the experiment.

GRAFTING

is yet in season, the first of this month. It is a very simple process. If an old tree is to be furnished with a new top, not more than one third of it should be grafted the first year, and this should be the top branches. The scions take much more readily upon new, than upon old wood, and for this reason, some cut off the old branches and force them to make new shoots for the purpose of grafting next year. We have found this the best method. But grafting alone will not renew old trees. They should be dug around, and manured. Save all the old bones and dig them in, about the roots of your fruit trees. Dry bones so treated, be assured, will rise again, not indeed in the shape of bones, but recoined and beautified in the shape of delicious fruits. Scrub the old trunks with soap and water, and then stand by and see how they will grow and repay your care. If any of your young trees do not thrive, even with good treatment, better take them up and try again. Sometimes they are so infested with lice, that a new tree is the only remedy. If the tree has sound roots, and it is only stunted by long neglect, good care and grafting may bring it into a thriving condition. If you have seedling pears scattered about your woods and pastures set them out in nursery rows and graft them. These stocks are sound, and make very vigorous trees. In a few years they may be loaded with fine Bartlets and Seckles.

THE SMALL FRUITS.

It is not yet too late to plant Raspberries, Blackberries and Currants. Nothing pays better than these berries. Make the soil deep and rich.

A SUCCESSION OF PEAS

is very desirable. Plant the Champion of England to succeed the Early June's or Prince Albert planted in April.

HAVE A GOOD GARDEN.

Variety is the spice of life. The farmer's table should have this spice. It is his business to supply food to the race, and he should give to his household daily, a fair sample of his skill in his business, upon the same principle that the shoemaker wears a genteel boot, or the tailor a fashionable coat. The farmer's table should be his best advertisement. It is good policy and good economy. Beef, pork and potatoes will not bring out of laborers the maximum of work. The human system craves a variety of food, and enough of it. Therefore plant and sow this month lettuce, parsley, onions, parsnips, radishes, tomatoes, peppers, cauliflower, cabbage, cucumbers, squashes, &c. Let it be no fault of yours, if you do not have the best garden in your neighborhood.

THE ORNAMENTAL.

If your garden is not yet laid out according to some plan, it is time to do it. It need not be completed at once. You can approach each year nearer to your plan until it is completed. Let every tree planted, every path made, every wall laid, have reference to the shape you mean it shall take when the garden is finished.—Ed.

MAY WORK FOR FEMALES.

BY ANNA HOPE.

Spring brings with it multiplied cares and duties, not only to the farmer, but to the housekeeper. The smoke and dust of winter must disappear before whitewash brushes and scrubbing brushes, and the aspect of the dwelling be rejuvenated by its mistress, as Nature without is by Him who has promised that seed-time and harvest, summer and winter, shall not cease. There are various methods of attending to this department of housekeeping.

Some ladies emulate the hurricane or the fierce thunder-storm. Everything in the house is whirled suddenly out of place, and furniture and carpets, looking-glasses and pictures are found, if found at all, in chaotic confusion. Every window in the house is open, and the baby and the other children enjoy all the advantages to be derived from strong drafts of air and unaccustomed exposure. Mattresses and feather beds lie on the wood-pile, and blankets and comforters swing on the lines. There is not a quiet spot to be found. Mops and brushes are the enjoyments of the day; and tiny children, with tiny rags, are running here and there, to have their part in the pleasurable excitement. Woe to the gentlemen of the establishment, if he chance to make his appearance. He is not, at present, lord and master, but is subject to being driven about from one place to another, till, like Noah's dove, he finds there is no rest for the sole of his foot; but, unlike Noah's dove, he can find no ark to which he may return, and be lovingly taken in.

Night comes. The bed-chambers are perfumed with soap-suds, and smell delightfully fresh and clean. To be sure—there are no carpets on the floor, and no curtains at the windows, and there is not much of the semblance of home; but hope in the heart is strong, and it promises better things. What is that peculiar cough that disturbs the weary sleepers? It cannot be mistaken; baby has the croup, and demands speedy and efficient attention. Baby is not the only sufferer. Every other child has taken cold, and so have the adult members—for days they must suffer from their needless exposure. In wearisomeness the work so energetically begun is completed, and order is gradually restored to the household. Disasters so serious as croup do not always follow these earthquake cleanings, but I never knew one to take place, that did not result in colds and serious discomforts of some kind.

There is a "more excellent way" in housecleaning—and that is a more quiet one. Begin in the attic, if convenient, and put that in order for summer. Then take unoccupied chambers, or those unwarmed by a fire, disarranging only one or two in a day. Finish these before attempting others. So continue to do, till the work is all done, and the cellar itself nicely whitewashed. Much unnecessary confusion is thus avoided, and the general arrangements of the family are not broken up. The comfort of home is not, even for a time, destroyed, and the gentlemen, absent during the day, at hard work in the fields or on pressing business, are not molested in their enjoyment of domestic life. They may not even know a revolution is going on in the house.

In making clean the interior house, do not forget the yard about it. Have that neatly raked, and the dead leaves and twigs removed to the barn-yard or the bonfire heap. Cultivate in your children a love for well-kept grounds, and for agricultural employment. Give them gardens *of their own*, and let them plant as they please, offering them, of course, the advice and instruction they need. Encourage them in their plans. Teach them to observe the various modes of growth in different plants. Sympathize with them in the pleasure which they feel when their seeds sprout and show themselves above the earth. Let your daughters enjoy the same privilege of cultivating a garden for themselves as do your boys. Do not teach them that they must plant nothing but flower seeds; but let them, if they wish, have corn and potatoes, beets and carrots. Advise your sons to pay some attention to flowers, for they need their refining influence, quite as much as do your more gentle girls.

Do not use the pruning-knife too freely on your shrubs and young trees. Nature is a wise mother, and when she sends out branches near the ground, she does it for a good purpose. Do not make bloomers of your trees any more readily than you would make a bloomer of yourself. I should, myself, never trim a tree, unless its situation rendered it necessary, and even then it would be done with reluctance. I doubt if even our fruit trees would not do better, to permit the branches to grow low, and thus protect the trunk from the fierce heats of summer.

If you have not a good strawberry bed, it is not even now too late to make one, if you live north of New-York. Have the ground properly prepared—the March number of the Agriculturist, if you have it, will tell you how to have it done—and then children can set the vines as well as older persons, and will enjoy the work.

Early Asparagus.—A correspondent at Stonington, Ct., writes, April 12: "We have had three cuttings of asparagus this week. Can you beat that?"

No sir. Perhaps some of our readers can. If so, let them speak out.—[Ed.

A lady made a complaint to Frederick the Great of Prussia. "Your Majesty," said she, "my husband treats me badly." "That is none of my business," replied the King. "But he speaks "very ill of you," said the lady. "That" he replied "is none of your business."

He who lives to learn will learn to live.

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS.

MAY 1856.

[We propose to give from month to month, besides our leading article, "Work for the Month," a calendar of some of the more important operations in the field, garden, &c. These are adapted to the latitudes of 41° to 42°. A little allowance must be made for each degree of latitude—later north, earlier south. An early season, or a late one like the present advances or retards operations, so that we shall need to revise and adapt these tables to each year. The letters f. m. l. refer to *first*, *middle*, and *last* of the month. Doubling the letters thus: ff. mm. or ll., gives emphasis to the particular period indicated.]

THE FIELD.

Spring Wheat; sow Fife or other varieties, ff. (See page 177.)

Clover; sow f. m., on or with Spring grain.

Timothy; sow f. m., with clover or Spring grain.

Corn; plant and sow f. m. l. (See Work for Month.)

Broom Corn; plant f. to m. Look out for killing by frost.

Oats; sow, ff. m.; choose heavy kinds.

Barley; sow ff., if not done before.

Lucerne; sow ff. (See page 177.)

Peas; sow or plow in, f. m. Scald seed *quickly* to kill bugs.

Beans; plant f. mm.

Vetches; sow broadcast or in drills, f. m.

Millet; sow f. m. l. (See page 175.)

Buckwheat; sow m. ll.

Flax may be sown at North, ff., but is usually sown in April.

Hemp; sow f. m. l.

Mustard; sow or drill f. m. l.

Tobacco; transplant f. to m.

Pumpkins; plant f. m. l., with corn, especially on new or rich land.

Squashes; plant as a field crop, f. m.

Turnips; sow, or better drill, Russia or Swede varieties, m. l.

Beets, for Winter use, sow in drills, f. to l.; thin out and weed those sown last month.

Carrots; sow f. m. l., or as soon as the ground is dry and warm; sow f. for early; m. for field crop.

Parsnips; hoe and thin, f. m. l.; sow a few f. m. l.

Plow deep, *deep*, DEEP, DEEP.

Harrowing; f. m. l.; you cannot make the soil too fine.

Plaster; sow over clover and wheat fields, f. m.

Manures; ff. mm. ll.; leave not a particle to waste about the yards or buildings, or to evaporate from the fields; get it all *under* the ground as soon as may be; mingle with the soil as intimately as possible, leaving no lumps or masses in one spot; gather ashes, soot, blood, hair, wool, rags, bones, pond and swamp muck, decayed leaves—in short, all decaying vegetable or animal substances, and get them near the roots of some growing crop. These all used, try Peruvian guano, plaster, salt, &c.

Pasturing; m. l., don't let animals out too soon; let the grass get up well; only half pasture with dry feed, at first.

Sheep; keep the lambing ewes from exposure, f. Take good care of the lambs; sheep and lambs are and will be high. Don't wash or shear sheep too early, there is much risk and little gain. Wash and shear m. l.

Salt meadows; ditch when dry enough.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

Artichokes; plant out, f. m.

Asparagus; clean beds, f. m. (See our April number, page 161.) Water beds, adding to water a little guano, or liquid manure.

Beans and Peas; sow or plant for a succession, f. m. l.

Beets; sow red, ff., and thin out those sown early, f. m. l.; sow white beets, f. to l.

Blackberry vines; set out, ff., if not done already. (See page 000.)

Broccoli; sow, f. to m.; if dry, cover the ground with mats; set out plants already up, f. to m.

Cabbage; sow seed for late, ff.; set out plants, f. m., and for late, l.

Carrots; sow, f. m. l.; thin out, m. l.

Cauliflower; sow for late, f. to m.

Celery; plant out, f. to l.

Coriander and Dill; sow, f. or m.

Cress, or Pepper Grass; sow at several periods, f. m. l.—during l. under shade of trees.

Cucumbers; plant, f. to m. (See page 183.)

Currant bushes; may be planted by slips or roots, ff, but should, where possible, be put out in April.

Endive; sow, l. Fennel; sow, f.

Hoeing; keep the hoe constantly at work, f. m. l.

Kale (Sea;) sow, m.; blanch early sown, f.

Lettuce; sow, or plant out, f. m. and l., for a succession.

Marigolds and Majorams; sow and plant, f. to m.

Melons, of various kinds; sow, f. to m.; plant out, from hot beds, m.

Mints—Pennyroyal, &c., &c., plant slips, f. to l.; sow, ff.

Mushroon beds; make, ff. to m.

Mustard; sow for salad, f. m. and l.

Nasturtiums; sow, ff. to m. (See page 184.)

Onions; weed and thin, f. to l.; sow seed thickly for small onions to plant next Spring, m. to l.; for pickling, sow white, m.

Parsley; sow f. m. l., for a succession.

Parsnips; hoe and thin, f. to l.; sow some f. to m.

Potatoes; plant, f. to m.

Pumpkins and Squashes; sow, f. to m., or later; plant out those in hotbeds, f. to m.

Radishes; f. to l., for a succession. (See page 185.)

Raspberry vines; may be set out, ff.—better if done before.

Rosemary and Rue; plant out, ff. mm. l.

Sage; sow, ff.; plant slips and cuttings, f. to l.

Salsify, or Oyster Plant. (See page 184.)

Spinach; thin, f. m.; sow, f. m. l. for Summer or early Autumn use.

Strawberries; plant for late, ff., if not done; clean beds. See our last two numbers.

Tomatoes; plant out, f. to m; sow, ff. if not already done, though it is better to buy a few plants already started.

Thyme; sow, f.; plant out, f. to l.

Turnips; sow, f. m. and l., for early and succession.

Water plants, l., when ground is dry, especially those newly planted out; save all the house slops, urine and dish-water, and put around the roots of plants.

Weeds; these should be watched carefully; "a stich in time will save nine." If they get the start of you, cut down and bury them under the soil as a manure. Green plants decay too quickly to be profitable as a mulch, or surface manure.

FLOWER GARDEN.

Anemones; take up roots and separate offsets as fast as leaves decay, f. to l.

Annuals of various kinds; remove from hot-beds to borders as soon as weather is settled.

Biennials; sow, f. to l.

Borders; dress frequently, f. to l.

Carnations; remove side-buds from flower-stems; shade from hot sun at midday; water in very dry weather.

Dahlias; transfer from pots or green-house to open ground, f. to m.

Evergreen trees and shrubs; plant from f. to m., the earlier now, the better.

Flowering plants; stake as needed, f. to l.

Grass-plots: mow, or shear and roll frequently, f. to l.

Grass; seeds may be sown, f. to m., or later.

Gravel walks; smooth and roll often; pull out stray grass-stalks and weed as they appear.

Hoeing; keep the hoe, rake, &c., constantly in motion; continually stirring the ground around plants is highly beneficial.

Hyacinths; take up and store, as leaves decay, m. l.

Mignionette; sow for succession, f. to l.

Perennials; sow f. to m.; propogate by slips and cuttings, m. to l.

Polyanthus; part, ff., if not already done; shade carefully from hot sun, f. m. l.

Roses; bud, ff. to m.; treat roots with guano water or liquid manure.

Stakes should be set by flowering plants as required, f. to l.

Tulips; remove seed pods, m. l.; take up and store as fast as leaves decay, l.

Turfs; may be laid, f. to m., or even later; but the earlier the better, to avoid drying out.

HOT-HOUSE AND GREEN-HOUSE.

[A very competent gentleman had engaged to supply hints under these heads, but his copy failed to reach us in time for this number.]

ORCHARD.

Grafting may be done in the earlier part of May, especially this season.

Look out for the caterpillars; don't let them spread and scatter over the tree, but pinch them to death as fast as seen.

Stir the ground around all fruit trees, and keep grass down. If trees are in a pasture or meadow, hoe around the roots.

Ashes, charcoal, &c., should be put around trees. Lime is also beneficial, put on the surface or dug in. Old trees, on a poor soil, are benefitted by guano, or liquid manure.

Tables like the above, enlarged and made more perfect, will hereafter be prepared for each monthly issue.—ED.

SOW CLOVER FOR MANURE—WHY—WHEN—HOW.

WHY.—We suppose a majority of farmers are, by this time, aware of the advantages of turning under a good crop of clover, as a means of fertilizing the soil,—we are sorry that the seed is so scarce and high the present season as to curtail the usual practice in any degree. Still, even with the seed at 13 to 16 cents per pound, it will *pay* on the great mass of poorer soils, especially those devoted to wheat or rye culture. But there are many who contend that plowing in clover cannot improve the soil, because "it is simply putting back into the ground a crop grown from it;" while others, who are convinced from experience that the practice is a good one, are still at a loss to account for the results produced. Both of these classes may learn something from a consideration of the method in which plants grow.

If we take a box of earth, containing, say 600 pounds, and weigh it carefully, and then sow an ounce of clover seed in it, we can continue to remove successive crops until we have taken off more weight of clover than the entire weight of earth in the box at first; and this, too, without adding anything but the purest water. After we have removed this crop we shall find the box of earth to weigh more than 500 pounds, (its original weight,) at least, nearly as much more as the weight of the roots remaining in the contained soil. As we explained in an article published several months since, the clover grown has been derived from the air; and such is the case with all plants. Their principal food comes from the atmosphere, from which it has been extracted by the surface of the leaves.

But experience teaches that the growth of any plant is accelerated, especially in its early stages, by supplying the soil with a small percentage of organic manure—that is, animal or vegetable matter, A single handful of animal excrements or decaying straw mingled with a square foot of ground will often insure its fertility, and cause it to produce a large hill of corn, for example, when, without this addition, not one-half of the yield would have been obtained.

An application of these facts explains the benefit of plowing under clover. A soil may be so poor that clover itself will not grow. When this is the case, a small amount of manure from the yard, or a few hundred pounds per acre of gypsum (plaster of Paris) will generally furnish the needed food or stimulus. When we can get the clover to grow, its great amount of leaf surface will radidly abstract the invisible elements floating in or combined with the air, and store them in the stalks, leaves, and roots. When these are plowed under and mingled with the earth it is directly equivalent to bringing from a foreign source an amount of manure equal to the clover crop itself. We repeat, the clover does not "come from the soil, but is derived from a foreign source, and is so much *added* to the needed organic material required to produce wheat, rye, or other crops more difficult to be grown than clover. We have brought a number of comparatively barren fields to a high state of fertility with no other application than a little plaster at first, and turning under a few successive crops of clover when in their fullest growth—at the time of flowering.

We have, in few instances, been obliged to use yard manures, and, in the absence of these, an application of guano, or finely ground *unburnt* bones, before we could get clover to grow well; but when clover would grow, we have found no difficulty in bringing a field to a high degree of fertility, if it was not so sandy and devoid of fine material as to furnish no suitable medium for the growth of the small rootlets of plants.

The large amount of nitrogenous elements in clover, as well as the large leaf surface, render this one of the best manuring plants; and, with the growing scarcity of good manures ,farmers should turn their attention more to this subject.

WHEN.—Much diversity of practice prevails. Judging from our own experience, as well as observation, we think decidedly the best season is during the months of March or April, according to the latitute. But clover can be sown in May, especially this late season, even upon Winter crops, though it is rather late for this. Upon oats, &c., sow this month, of course, as it must be sown after these seeds are in the ground.

HOW.—Upon Spring crops, the better plan is to finish harrowing in the grain seeds, and then sow the clover seed, working it in with a light harrow, or with a bush. For Winter crops, wheat and rye, some sow upon snow—and this is not a bad plan, as it easy to see whether the seed falls evenly, and when the snow melts away it in part washes the earth upon the seed. But even this is objectionable, since some of the seeds will remain uncovered; and, in the event of a sudden thaw or rain, currents of water will be produced which will wash the seed into furrows or low spots.

Our most successful practice has been to wait until the snow has departed, and choose a morning, or mornings, when the ground is frozen an inch or so in depth, and when there is little air stirring, and then carefully sow the seed as evenly as possible. At this time the surface of the earth is filled with little crevices formed by the frost. Into these the seeds fall, and, when the ground thaws again, most of them are as thoroughly covered as if planted by hand.

SOAKING THE SEED.—When the sowing is done late in the Spring it often happens that the surface of the ground is too dry to start them. In this case it is well to soak the seeds. A writer in the Rural New-Yorker, who has practiced soaking his seed for a period of twelve hours, in weak brine, and then rolling it in plaster of Paris before sowing, finds that by comparing the result with seed sown dry, in the usual way, in parts of the same field, great advantages are gained by the practice. He says, the next Spring you can see the difference in favor of the soaked seed as far as you could see the lot, and it continued to produce more and better clover until he plowed it up. He has followed the practice ever since, and has not missed a crop, though the two last seasons were dry.

In scattering the seed, it is placed, while in the bag, into some vessel large enough to give room to swell, and an hour or two before using it is taken out of the water to drain, when it is rolled in plaster. The soaking and plaster adds to the weight, and enables the farmer to sow it much more evenly especially if the weather is windy. As the present season is backward, and clover seed is scarce and dear, the plan of soaking the seed is worthy of trial. On most soils plaster is the best application that can be made, and when applied directly to the seed it receives an important stimulus just at the period when it is most needed.—ED.

THE LATE SEASON—CORN PLANTING.

If this late spring should be followed by early autumn frost, as was the case in 1836, much of the corn crop of the United States will be seriously injured, unless it should ripen one to two weeks earlier than is common. To insure earlier ripening, it is quite desirable to select the seed from some locality two to four degrees north of the place where planted. The extra expense of this would be trifling—the extra gain might be very great.

The early varieties of corn from Canada and the most northern sections of the United States, will ripen in eighty-five to ninety days from planting. But these are of a dwarf growth of *stalk*, though some of them are as great yielders in *grain* as any other variety. Still, we would not recommend these for general field culture south of 42 degrees north latitude, but a taller, stronger growing variety, several of which ripen in ninety to one hundred days. In the summer of 1837, a neighbor of ours raised a very fine crop of corn—stalk and ear of full medium size—the grain of which glazed in eighty-five days after planting. The yield was fully thirty-seven bushels per acre. Indian corn is the largest and most important crop grown in America.

It behooves us, therefore, to give it special attention. Everything likely to increase the amount of yield per acre, to facilitate and cheapen cultivation and harvesting, to improve its quality and certainty of ripening before an early frost, should be subjects of careful study on the part of farmers. Their wealth as well as their comfort and happiness, may be greatly increased thereby.—[ED.

EXPERIMENT WITH POTATOES.—Mr. J. G. Johnson, of Providence, writes us that he finds a tablespoonful of coarse salts dropped on a hill of potatoes, and dug in at the first hoeing is a valuable application on his soil, which is of a light, sandy character. Please give a full description of the experiments with the result. What kind of "salts" were used?

Let others experiments with a few hills Try salts (epsom and glauber) on some common salt on others; ashes, plaster, lime &c., on others.—ED.

THOSE TUMBLING STONE FENCES.

Stone fences, though a nuisance anywhere, are a necessary evil in many parts of the country, which cannot well be dispensed with. If Jack Frost would let them alone, in Winter, there would be little trouble, but that mischievous fellow delights in prying up one side, then the other, now loosening a stone here, and displacing another there, and then raising the whole *en masse*, and letting down one side at a time, when the sun shines in. An old Connecticut farmer, whose land, though upon a side-hill, was kept continually damp by water oozing out over more than half the surface, once told us, that the greatest sin he had to answer for, was an ill-temper, and that this had been chiefly developed by vain attempts to keep his stone fences perpendicular. He thought about one-tenth of the year was consumed in repairing them. This, he said, was equal to seven dollars in every hundred of his farm expenses.

Most builders of stone fences endeavor to avoid the effect of frost by digging a deep foundation; but this is not entirely effectual, since the soil against the lower part of the walls, in freezing, frequently raises up the sides unequally. If the fences run east and west, the ground thaws out soonest on the sunny side, and then the whole wall is, ten to one, tilted in that direction, if not thrown down.

A Remedy.—It is well known that dry solids—dry earth, for example—slightly contract in cold weather and expand in warm, while water, and wet substances generally, expand when becoming solidified by cold. Water expands about one-eighth in freezing, and a wet soil does the same, so that when the ground freezes two feet in depth, it rises three inches—enough to upset any wall. If the same soil had been dry it would have simply contracted or settled, perhaps less than one-fourth of an inch. This principle suggests a remedy for the effects of frost:

Make a dry bed of earth for stone walls to rest upon.

This can be accomplished in two ways. First, by running an open drain directly under the fence sufficiently large and deep to carry off all water.

The surest method, and perhaps the one most generally practicable, is to bank up the earth from one-and-a-half to two feet in the place where the wall is to stand, and lay the foundation stones directly upon the summit of the ridge. The banking can be done with a plow. Mark out the line for the fence, and then run a plow upon each side, turning, say half-a-dozen furrows from either side, in upon or toward this line. Then begin again at the middle and replow the land in the same way. Five or six plowings of this kind will raise the middle portion sufficiently to give a high and dry bed, from which all water will flow or drain off. Smooth the surface with a harrow, and go over with a heavy roller afterward, if such an implement be at hand. Leave tke ground to settle for a time, and then put up the stone wall. The extra labor of preparing the bed thus will be a dozen times less than what would be required to repair the fences from year to year; and besides a much less quantity of stones will be needed than in the digging process.

We do not recommend this plan for a soil always dry, and where stones are plentiful and close at hand, for in this case it is probably better to dig below the frost at once, and lay the wall wide enough to prevent its falling over; but on wet ground, with no good supply of stones near, we think the plan we have recommended highly valuable.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY—NOW AND THEN.

If the farmer of fifty years since, could, like a second Rip Van Winkle, awake from his long sleep to a new life, he would be amazed at the machinery which is now employed in the culture of the soil, and the preparation of its products for market. A clumsy ax, a miserable kicking plow, with a wooden mould board, a wooden-toothed harrow, a coarse shovel, a heavy hoe, an imperfectly tempered scythe and sickle, a flail, and a hand grain-fan, were about all the implements which the best farmers then thought necessary for them to possess. But now he requires half a dozen to a dozen different kinds and sizes of the best cast-iron or steel-polished plows, according to the nature of his soil, and the depth and breadth of his furrows; rollers with independent iron sections, and clod crushers to pulverise and smooth the surface of his fields; swing harrows, accommodating their teeth to the uneven surfaces of the ground, and leaving large fields in as fine a tilth for the reception of the seed as a well-prepared garden; corn and potato planters, seed sowers and drills, dropping and covering the seed with the greatest rapidity and economy, and yet mathematically exact; cultivators and soil-stirrers, which open the ground to the inhalation of fortifying dews, and cut up and kill the weeds which, if suffered to grow, would impoverish the crop; root and corn harvesters, mowing and reaping machines, horse-rakes, and horse pitchforks; threshing machines, fan mills and corn shellers; mills and apparatus for grinding, cutting and cooking the food for stock; and lastly, canals and railroads for transporting everything which the farmer may have to sell, with undreamed-of safety and dispatch, to the highest priced markets; thus enabling the single farmer of the present day, to accomplish with ease what ten, and in some instances even twenty of his brethen of ancient date could not have done in the same time, with the most painful and exhausting efforts.

How thankful ought the generation of the present day to be to those artizans who have thus facilitated and lightened the toil of the husbandman, and enabled him to keep pace with a rapidly increasing population, and furnish food at nearly the average prices of a half century ago. We expect that these improvements on the part of mechanics will continue, and that the present is even but the beginning of what is yet to be accomplished.—[Ed.

HYDRAULIC CEMENT (WATER-LIME) FOR WATER-PIPES—HOW TO MAKE THE PIPES.

Mr. J. Henderson, of Bowling-Green, Va., gives us his experience as well as observation of the use of hydraulic cement for pipes conveying water.

The method of making the pipes is quite simple and cheap, and we are quite obliged for the information. He states, that in his own town, as well as in Rockbridge, it has been extensively used for several years, and is very highly esteemed. He has seen several instances where water is conveyed from half a mile to a mile, with a heavy pressure.

Last spring, Mr. Henderson put down 600 feet of pipe, 1½ inches in diameter, for the purpose of conveying water from a spring to the barn-yard. He used for the purpose 10 barrels of cement, which cost $15, or $1 50 per barrel at the Rockbridge mill.

His method of constructing the pipe is as follows: The dry cement is thoroughly mixed with an equal quantity of sharp sand, and portions of it made into a mortar, only as fast as required for use. For a mould, two pieces of two-inch plank are taken, say four inches in width, and six feet in length. These are hollowed out on one side, so that when placed together, a hole would be left through the centre. They are then put down edgewise in the bottom of the ditch where the pipe is to remain, but are set apart three or four inches, so as to leave a suitable space for the mortar between them. They are kept apart by another small piece of plank, rounded upon its two edges to fit the hollows in the two side pieces. This forms a kind of open trough or mould, six feet long and four inches deep, having the ground for the bottom, the hollow plank for the sides, the last piece of pipe formed, for one end, and the small cross-piece for the other.

Through the centre of the cross-piece a hole is bored, of the size of the internal bore of the pipe. Through this hole a round, smooth wooden rod is thrust, which is continued along the middle of the mould, and into the hole in the last piece of pipe formed. When thus arranged, the mortar, just prepared, is poured in and soon becomes hard. As soon as the mortar is set, the rod is drawn out carefully, leaving a smooth round hole in the centre.

The side pieces are then taken off, and moved along for another six feet. These may be kept in place by the sides of the ditch, if it be of the proper width; but it is better to prepare a couple of iron clamps, say like a wide plow clevice, which can be set down over them to keep them from falling outward, and taken up when the side pieces are to be moved.

The whole process is very simple, and can be rapidly performed, and we should judge, quite cheaply. As soon as the whole pipe is finished the water may be let in, but the pipe should be allowed to harden some two weeks or so, before much pressure is added.

GLAZED STONE-WARE PIPE.

Messrs. E. & D. Fosdick & Co., of Middlebury, Summit Co., Ohio, advertise a stone

pipe, glass-glazed on the inside, which is offered at a moderate price, add is well recommended. We have not seen it, and cannot speak definitely as to its merits.—[Ed.

For the American Agriculturist.

TO MY SISTERS UPON THE FARM.—No. 2.

BY ELIZA.

While the increasing prosperity of our people enables them to indulge in many of those necessaries of life, which undeveloped resources and a partially formed state of society have hitherto forbid, we should be careful that luxury and sloth do not usurp the place of that frugality and industry which has distinguished us as a nation and laid the foundation for that "future destiny" of the Anglo Saxon race, which looms up before our mental vision, while listening to fourth of July orations, or reading the maiden speech of some aspirant for fame on the floor of Congress. Nowhere is this change in the community more observable than among our farmers.

The last few years of unprecedented prosperity have enabled them, in a majority of cases, not only to pay off their incumbrances, but to minister to the tastes and gratify many of the wants of their families in a way which cramped means and heavy debts had heretofore prevented. That some of these wants are artificial and not a few of the tastes meretricious, any philosopher or utilitarian would prove in fewer words than are comprised in this introduction, but being neither the one or the other, I shall be satisfied if able to *persuade* farmer's wives and daughters that ostentation is no proof of refinement, nor fine clothes an evidence of gentility.

History tells us that barbaric nations emerge slowly into the light of civilization, and when I see the outré attempts of some of my country women to ape style and habits adapted only to monarchical institutions and a hereditary aristocracy, I am forcibly reminded of the story of the African King, who by way of honoring civilization, received his English visitors surrounded by the trappings of state, calmly seated under an umbrella his *sole* protection, when pity and contempt both vanish before a potent sense of the ludicrous. But assailing the follies of fashionable life may well be left to abler pens, and if the touch of ridicule to which we are so notoriously susceptible, has the power to amend our national faults here is fair opportunity to try the effect of the same improving weapon upon classes and individuals. It is to those who, occupied with the toils incident to a busy country life, find but little time or money to spend upon the ceaseless frivolities of fashion that I now address myself.

The temptations of extravagance to which they are exposed is of a somewhat different nature from those which beset their friends of the city. The family of a wealthy farmer will content themselves with but occasional additions to the plain substantial furniture which has served the preceeding generation, satisfied with the unfading home-made carpet and straight backed windsor chairs, if only accompanied by those indispensable accessions to a pleasant home, perfect order and neatness. They will rest contented with the tallow-candle and the blazing hearth fire, mingling, perhaps, with their sense of personal comfort, a feeling of pity for the citizen, condemned to the annoyance of glaring gas-light and cheerless furnace-heated rooms. It is not here that those habits of sentimental luxury which proved the ruin of a mightier republic are fostered. The yellow covered literature has not yet superceded the cook-book, nor conventional politeness usurped the place of that warm hearted hospitality which welcomes the weary wanderer, and extends to the honored guest at a farmer's fireside the sacred privileges of home.

I am aware that it is treading upon delicate ground to venture the assertion that the dress of my country friends is not always suitable to their situation. Extravagance is relative, taste is arbitrary. That which is proper for the wife of a millionarie is very much the reverse for the wife of the man who counts his yearly income by hundreds. But the taste which adds lustre to the diamond and refinement to gold, is equally indispensable in the elegant dressing room of the one as at the more simple toilet of the other. Suitability of material and harmony of color are first to be considered. If our means are ample and the judgment comes the *best* (which must not be misunderstood to mean the *finest* or costliest) will probably be chosen. Remembering whether it be silk or calico the circumstances under which it will be worn must be an important consideration. The wealth of Rothchild or Astor would excuse want of taste in arraying oneself in a white blonde hat and crape shawl of the same color, for a ride of five or ten miles to church through dust six inches deep, or what is as bad, a dazzling, misty atmosphere which discolors the material and effaces the skill of the milliner.

There is also a want of personal neatness in the appearance of limp ribbons and draggled dresses which the richness of the material only serves to aggravate. And no amount of after labor is sufficient to restore such articles to their pristine beauty. How much more servicable are straw bonnets and mantillas of black silk or any other color that "won't show dirt," than the elaborate finery whose only effect has been disfigurement, which is bringing in a very small percentage on the investment. In this condemnation of white material for country wear I would not be understood as including cambrics, muslins or any of those articles of attire which when washed are capable of being restored to their original purity. There is a freshness and simplicity in dresses of this description which fits them peculiarly for summer wear in the country, adapted as they are to all ages, equally suitable whether seen in the flowing robe of the infant, the full dress of the maiden, or the simple morning gown of the matron.

If on a walk to visit a neighbor one should feel satisfied with a large sun-bonnet having ample cape, carrying a good sized parasol and not one of the tanning inventions called "sunshades," fit only for a city promenade where shade trees and rows of brick houses act as a shield from the rays of sun.

No country girl need be told that thick veils are at all seasons indispensable to their comfort, yet one of the coldest days this past winter, I saw a sleigh full of ladies riding in the teeth of a furious north-west-wind without any covering for their faces and scarcely any on the head—the modern clam shell pattern for ladies' hats not being exactly a *covering*.

To sum up this long "lecture" with a moral, what I wish to inculcate is this, whatever may be the prevailing fashions of the day we should suffer our own good sense to select that which is most suitable for our situation and eschew all inventions intended solely for the accommodation of city friends.

SOAP-MAKING EXPLAINED.

J. P. C. says "he helps the women get the lye ready for spring soap-making," (this he should do, and also,) "follow their directions in setting up the leach." But he inquires "what the lime is put in for!" Perhaps he and others would like a little of the chemistry of the operation." It is difficult to fully explain the subject to those who have not read, at least, as much of chemistry as was given in the series of articles published in our thirteenth and fourteenth volumes.

The alkalies—(P. S. A. L. M.)—Potash, Soda, Ammonia, Lime, and Magnesia, &c., readily dissolve oily, greasy, and resinous or pitchy matters, and they are, therefore, useful to wash off or dissolve such substances from the skin or clothing. But the pure or uncombined alkalies are too caustic (burning or eating) to be used alone, so we combine them with some other substance. Thus: Potash united with oil, or grease of any kind, produces *soft* soap. If Soda is used instead of Potash, *hard* soap is formed. Ammonia, united with oil, forms a kind of soap or linament, commonly called "Opodeldoc."

Lime dissolves grease also, but will not form a good or convenient soap, since lime does not dissolve fully nor readily.

Ley is simply a solution of the Potash washed out of the ashes in leaching. Greasy substances are added to this, and boiled down until the excess of water is evaporated, and the soap left of the desired consistency. A little lime placed under or mingled with the ashes in the leach, adds to the alkaline strength of the ley, and we think theory is in accordance with the popular practice of using the lime. There is little danger of using it too freely, since 778 lbs. of cold water, or 1,270 lbs. of hot water will only dissolve 1 lb. of lime. Most of the washing fluids sold about the country, ready prepared or by recipe, contain a large proportion of lime.

Resin or pitch will take the place of grease, and is much used in manufacturing the cheaper kinds of brown soap. The finest qualities of toilet soap contain olive oil (sweet oil) in place of tallow or lard. It is probable, that for all coarser work—washing garments, scouring floors, &c., the low

priced brown soaps are just as good as white soaps, and they are consequently, cheaper.

"Whale Oil Soap" is formed of potash and impure unsalable fish oil. Its unpleasant odor injures it for common use, but improves it for washing trees infested with insects.

Potash always yields a *soft* or mucilaginous soap; Soda, on the contrary, produces *hard* soap when too much water is not left to keep it in a state of solution. Soft or potash soap can be changed to hard soap by the addition of common salt. In this case, there is an entire change of elements, Soda is formed from the salt, and this then takes the place of the Potash, giving us the hard or soda soap.*

Potash, as is well known, is prepared from wood and ashes. The water leached through is boiled down until the impure potash remains in the bottom of the boiling vessel. When purified it is white, and generally contains one equivalent of carbonic acid, KO, CO_2. It is then made to combine with another equivalent, and becomes Pearl-ash or Salaratus, (KO, CO^2, CO^2.) The common potash is often purchased, dissolved in water, and united with any greasy matters, when it forms a fine white soft soap.

* The Chemical reader will understand that salt is Chloride of Sodium, (Na Cl,) and Potash (KO.) is an Oxide of Potassum (Kalium). When these are united, we may suppose the Oxygen (O.) and the Chlorine (Cl.) to change places, forming Soda (Na. O.) and Chloride of Potassum, (K. Cl.) thus: KO.&Na. Cl=Na. O&K. Cl. The soda now unites with the oily matters, yielding hard soap, and the Chloride of Potassum remains in solution.

CULTURE OF MILLET.

We have several inquiries on the subject of raising Millett, but not having had recent experience on the subject, ourselves, we give below, from Allen's American Farm Book, a condensed description of the mode of sowing and cultivation. We think this an important crop, and profitable when intelligently managed. Like almost every other article we raise, Millet requires a good soil to yield a profitable return. With this and proper attention, few of the forage or grain crops can be better worth the attention of the farmer. Some of our friends who have raised it for many years regard it of equal or greater value than their best meadows of timothy or clover.

Millet, (*Panicum Milliaceum.*)—This is the species of millet usually grown in the United States. In its form and the manner of bearing its seeds, the millet strongly resembles a miniature broom corn. It grows to the hight of two to four feet, with a profusion of stalks, heads and leaves, which furnish excellent forage for cattle. From 60 to 80 bushels of seed per acre have been raised, and with straw equivalent to one or two tons of hay; but an average crop may be estimated at about one-third of this quantity. Owing to the great waste during the ripening of the seed, from the shelling of the earliest of it before the last is matured, and the frequent depredations of birds which are very fond of it, millet is more profitably cut when the first seeds have begun to ripen, and then harvested for fodder. It is cured like hay, and on the best lands yields from two to four tons per acre. All cattle relish it, and experience has shown it to be fully equal to good hay.

Cultivation.—Millet requires a dry, rich, and well pulverized soil. It will grow on thin soil, but best repays on the most fertile. It should be sown broadcast or in drills, from the 1st of May to the 1st of July. If for hay, and sown broadcast, 40 quarts per acre will be required; if sown in drills for the grain, 8 quarts of seed will suffice. It will ripen in 60 to 75 days with favorable weather. When designed for fodder, the nearer it can approach to ripening, without waste in harvesting, the more valuable will be the crop.

INDIAN, OR GRAND MILLET.

The Indian, or Grand Millet, is much cultivated in Asia Minor, Egypt, Arabia, the West Indies, and elsewhere. It grows from four to six feet high, affording a large quantity of forage, and much seed or grain, which is known as Guinea corn. This is ground into flour and used by the laborers where grown. It is also an economical food for cattle, swine, and fowls. It is not raised to any extent in the United States, but might be advantageously introduced into the Southern States.

SOFT JUMBLES—BATTER PUDDING—GERMAN TOAST.

Editor American Agriculturist:

As you esteemed my former "recipes" worthy of a place in your paper, I send you three others in common use among my acquaintances. They may have been in print before, but if so, I have not seen them.

Sarah.

Soft Jumbles.—Two cups of sugar, rolled fine; one cup of butter, one cup of milk, with half a teaspoonfull of saleratus dissolved in it; four eggs, well beaten; and and flour enough to make it rather thicker than pound-cake. Beat well after all the ingredients are put together; rub over some square tin pie-pans with a bit of sponge dipped in melted butter, and put in the mixture rather more than an inch thick. Bake in a quick oven; when cold, cut it in squares.

Batter Pudding.—To eight eggs, put eight spoonfuls of flour; beat them well; then add a quart of milk; butter a dish and bake. Serve with wine or brandy, and butter and sugar, rubbed together. For wine or brandy, substitute lemon-juice.

German Toast.—Take a small loaf of baker's bread, a day old, and cut in slices an inch in thickness; make a custard of four eggs, well beaten, to a quart of milk, adding four tablespoonfuls of sugar; soak the bread in the custard until it becomes saturated; then fry the bread in fresh butter till nearly browned. Serve with lemon sauce.

THOSE GREAT EARS OF CORN—GOURD-SEED CORN AT THE SOUTH.

[In our February issue, page 99, we published an account of several large ears of corn, raised respectively by Hon. Edward Everett of Massachusetts, Mr. F. R. Rives of Virginia, and Mr. M. W. Phillips of Mississippi. As these ears appeared to have about the same superficial area, though differing not a little in the number of kernels, we suggested that each gentleman weigh the shelled grain. The following letter in reply was so delayed by mail that it did not reach us until our April number was made up.—Ed.]

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

Sir: At your suggestion, I have weighed the corn from the ear that I counted the grains upon, and sent you the number, (1276 kernels.) It weighs, upon our small platform scales, precisely 16 ounces. I weighed the corn from another ear, which had only 20 rows and 820 grains, the grains larger and appears heavier; it weighed 14 ounces.

We have of the first corn, ears that have 24, 26, and as high as 28 rows, the kernels being generally large. It is the purest article of *gourd seed*, called "shoe peg," that I can find. It has sold at $2 per bushel—select seed corn—while corn was selling at 50 cents. Of course the selection makes a difference in price. I have not examined for better ears; my overseer tells me to-day, he has counted as high as 1,500 grains. I do not suppose it will feed as well as the heavier corn, though it may be better for our work stock, where our feed is corn and corn blades only. It measures more from the barrel in shelling, than any corn I have ever tried. After testing many varieties, I have settled down upon this. I have now in my desk three varieties to test.

The weevil injures the flint varieties far more than the *gourd seed*, and as I have said, owing, I think, to the shuck (husk) on the former being less, and thin and soft, while on the latter it is more abundant, thick and coarse. I shall have one field of 100 acres planted with the best seed I can select, and if a favorable year, with no storms, will not be content under an average of 40 bushels. and may make 50. Land is good. It will be planted on the level, and cultivated shallow. I have other land to be in corn, that is richer, but not so favorably situated for early planting. Yours, with respect,

M. W. Phillips.

P. S.—I heard to-day, of an ear in Vicksburg, from Illinois or Indiana, that has 2,700 grains, but I have not seen it, and must see, handle and count, to believe.

Edwards, Miss., March 11, 1856.

Why is a married man like a candle?

Because he frequently goes out of a night when he oughtn't to.

No man sinks to the lowest vices in a day.

DO OUR EASTERN FARMERS BETTER THEIR CONDITION BY REMOVING TO THE WEST.

NUMBER TWO.

Our remarks in the March number were partly historical. To illustrate our subject they must be continued, to a limited extent. With the opening of the Erie Canal, in 1825, the facilities of emigration were greatly promoted. Emigrants from East, by the Hudson river, had but to proceed to Albany or Troy, and then take passage on canal-boats, with all their home comforts about them, proceed to Buffalo, thence by steamboat to any part then accessible on the great Lakes beyond. By these means they were enabled to carry with them a large proportion of their household goods, and surround themselves with many more comforts than under the old way of removing—in wagons. The *prairies* and oak-opening countries of the West, had by this time been reached, where the emigrants soon brought the land into cultivation, and within a year or two, raised sufficient crops for their family support, without the toil-wearing process of cutting and clearing the heavy forest lands which the early emigrants had encountered. Northwestern Ohio and Michigan were now opened and accessible—abounding in fine prairies and scattering forests, with a fine corn and wheat soil, readily brought into use; and over those inviting regions the new settlers flocked, and nestled down like pigeons. Emigration, in fact, like fish, always runs in shoals, showing the *gregarious* disposition in that, as in everything else. Thus, we have witnessed the tide of *movers* for a given period, all wending in one direction. After "New Connecticut," which was the "Western Reserve" of Ohio, had got about one-third or one-half peopled, and fine lands were still to be had among "old" settlements, with schools and churches, and quite passable roads, for three to five dollars an acre, emigration went far beyond them, to the "Maumèe Country," the "White Pigeon," "Prairie Round," and "Washtenaw," and Saint Joe," and all the country thereabouts in Michigan; Northwestern Ohio, and Southern and Central Michigan, and Northern Indiana, were rapidly sprinkled over with new farms, log cabins, and a busy, hopeful, industrious people.

About 1830, Chicago was discovered, and two or three years after, the Indians being purchased out by the Government, away rushed the increasing tide of emigration into that quarter. Even now, Ohio had got *too narrow* for the settlers who, but a few years before, had moved into it as the *ultims-thule* of Western progression, and thousands of them sold out, and packed up their chattels, to find this still better world beyond. The land speculating mania now, in 1834–'5–'6, had got fairly hold of all the American World, and it was at once discovered, that of the hundreds of millions of acres at the West, there would soon be a *scarcity* of land, and everybody who could command money enough to locate a "quarter section" at "Government price," scratched it together, and hied away to Western Ohio, Michigan, Northern Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, to plant it, when, for the next fifteen years, they could neither get their money back nor occupy their purchases. The "Saginaw Country" of Michigan, with its vast pine forests, and the Fox, and Rock, and Illinois River lands of Illinois, had now been discovered, which absorbed untold investments—all to prove rapid fortunes to the new adventurers. With this speculative mania, bundled along emigration, in shoals of farmers, mechanics, merchants, professional men of all variety and grade, with high hopes and sanguine expectations of fortune, fame and happiness.

It is bootless to tell how sadly the splendid fortunes of the capitalists—in prospect, the happy anticipations of the emigrants, in all their dreams of competence and wealth, had vanished in the sudden convulsions of 1837 to 1842. Ruin, bankruptcy and straightened means, according to the depth which the spirit of speculation had drawn in its victims, now pervaded all and every part of the vast territory over which it spread; but the indomitable energy and perseverance of the sufferers worked them through, "somehow or other," and by the year 1845, the whole country was again "wholesome," in its pecuniary affairs, and the tide of Western emigration, moderately but steadily filling up the vacant places in the wide, wild territory which had previously been appropriated to private investment. Men having come again into their right senses, wild lands had got back into Government prices; and untold thousands of acres were purchased by the new emigrants of the speculators, for less than had been paid for them ten years before, taxes and interest thrown off. From 1840 to 1850, the great vacuum between Lake Erie and the Mississippi, great portions of which had been grasped by the speculators, now gradually filled up. People had now discovered, that in their eagerness to get to the "choicest" lands far West, they had passed, unobserved, hundreds of miles east of where they finally located, *better* lands, now to be got at less prices than they had paid beyond; and, although now too late to profit by that knowledge themselves, thousands of later emigrants had found it out, and stopping short, purchased them at low prices, and founded comfortable homes and good estates for themselves and their families, amid good society, with schools, churches, good roads, and better markets; and it is scarcely worth while to say, that the later emigrants, *with means in their hands*, made much better investments in purchasing partially improved farms, and contiguous wild lands in the previously settled districts, at low prices, than those who had gone far beyond, and ten years in advance of them.

Now the *railroad* spirit had fairly commenced its career, dull markets and low prices for the vast agricultural supplies of the great West, began to feel the new stimulus of cheap and ready transportation to the Eastern markets. These avenues, as they became rapidly opened, gave a new stimulus to agricultural enterprise. *Foreign* immigrants, arriving every year by hundreds of thousands, chiefly destined for the West, gave a new impetus to *native* enterprise, and away went the world again, on the wings of speculation, discovery, improvement; and now innumerable lines of railway are built, and projected, and in progress all over that vast, level Western world, penetrating through every State west of New-York and Pennsylvania, to the farthest verges of Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri—even unto Kansas and Nebraska; aye, to the copper mines of Lake Superior, and the great Red River of the North, with all the accompaniments of new cities, and opening farms, embracing the wildest imaginations of the active population of that far-off world, in fortune and happiness. Thus things now are—and everything affecting the substantial prosperity and improvement of both people and country, are in a marvellous career of progress.

Yet, all this we have related, is in the *aggregate*. The great mass of created wealth and action has been the result of *individual* enterprise and industry; and *individually* it must be viewed, to determine the application of such example to the *personal* circumstances of such as contemplate a change of home, personal relation and property, from where they now are, to a new settlement and home, and have, amid new society, or no society at all, in an untried climate, a fresh soil, with far distant markets, embracing new modes of agriculture, and some new articles of production.

In the mass of people, emigration is impulsive. Thousands set out from their old homes, to find new ones in the West, uncertain where they are to bring up, led off by the glowing accounts of some friend or relative who has gone before them, and seeing nothing on their way there but such as is beneath their glowing expectations of finding at the end of their journey. Arrived there, their powers are exhausted; they are warmly welcomed by their friends, high hopes are infused into their hearts, and frequently, without examination into the real facts which ought to determine their final conclusions, they find themselves with a farm on their hands, their capital invested, and their ready means exhausted. In short, they must now address themselves to the sober vocation of going to work and getting a living. The new settler has now time to *think*, and *after* he has *irrevocably acted*, begin to ascertain whether he has made a right or a wrong conclusion. We shall look into this matter in another paper.—Ed.

Books, Pamphlets, Addresses, &c.—Our friends have been quite liberal in their contributions to our table for sometime past, but for reasons given elsewhere, it has been impossible for us to *read* much the past month. Ere long we shall be able to "post" ourselves on such matters, and then our readers.—Ed.

A lazy fellow once declared in a public company, that he could not find bread for his family. "Nor I," replied an industrious mechanic, "I am obliged to work for it."

LUCERNE—A VALUABLE CROP FOR PASTURAGE AND HAY.

In a morning conversation with Mr. J. F. Clou, upon the Lucerne crop, we gathered the following items: Mr. Clou formerly resided near Lyons, France, but now cultivates a farm between Poughkeepsie and Hyde Park, on the Hudson River. Three years ago, he sowed three acres of Lucerne on a rich, moderately dry soil. The plot was first sown with oats, harrowed in, about the last of April. The ground, naturally fertile, was deeply plowed and sub-soiled, and a good coat of manure applied. This thorough preparation is desirable, since the Lucerne crop is expected to remain without resowing for many years. The deep tillage is also essential, as Lucerne is very deep-rooted. In the south of France, the long large roots are often dug up, dried, and sold in bundles as firewood. The ashes are white, strongly alkaline, and considered very valuable.

On the field above referred to, after harrowing in the oats, 16 pounds of Lucerne seed per acre was sown broadcast, and covered with a light harrow, and afterwards rolled. A large crop of oats was taken off at the usual season, and two weeks after, the field was covered with a green mass of Lucerne. When over a foot high, a part of it was mowed, and the rest pastured. This Mr. C. now considers bad policy. He advises to leave the last growth of each season as a MULCH and winter protection.

The next season, (the dry summer of 1854,) five distinct cuttings (one a month,) were made, besides leaving the last growth over for winter. The first cutting was 25 to 30 days earlier than that of any other grass. Each cutting was full 1½ feet in height. During the entire drouth this field continued green and luxuriant—the deep roots extending below the reach of the sun's effect.

Last spring (1855) a fire, on the 12th of May, destroyed Mr. C.'s barns and other outbuildings, including hay, grain, &c. The Lucerne field was immediately resorted to, and furnished an abundant supply of feed for the farm stock.

Now, (April 14,) the field presents a green appearance; and on one side, where the surface was protected by a coat of leaves from trees near by, the grass is already three to five inches high.

Another sandy field on a side hill, was sown last season in a similar manner to the above, and is covered with a thick, green mass. This field has a southern inclination, which adapts it better to the growth of this crop. If the ground be too cold and wet, and far North, there is danger of Winter-kill, The heaving of the ground breaks or draws out the long roots.

From his own experience and observation in this country, and especially in France, Mr. Clou is quite confident that Lucerne is one of the best of grasses, especially for Virginia, and even further North.

We now, as heretofore, earnestly commend this subject to the attention of farmers. Let those who can, try an acre or two at least. The seed can be obtained at most Agricultural stores. The price this spring is about 25 cents per pound.

In addition to what is said above, we find in the AMERICAN FARM BOOK the following description and illustration, with the directions for cultivation.—ED.]

LUCERNE.

Lucerne (*Medicago sativa,*) is one of the most productive plants for forage, ever grown. It was extensively cultivated by the Greeks and other nations of antiquity; and it has been a prominent object of attention in Italy, Spain, France, Holland and Flanders. Its relative value as compared with clover (*T. pratense*), is decidedly inferior, while its absolute value per acre, is much greater. It was early introduced into this country. Chancellor Livingston published his experiments with it from 1791 to 1794, by which he estimates that he cut in one season, at the rate of 6 1-5 tons per acre, in five cuttings, yielding a profit of over $35 an acre. It bears three or four crops per annum, containing from three to eight tons of hay. Those who have cultivated it, pronounce it hardy, and as capable of successful growth in this country as clover; but to reach the highest product, it requires a richness of soil and carefulness of cultivation, which would give an enormous produce to its more humble rival.

Manner of Cultivation.—It must have a deep, dry, loamy soil, free from weeds, and well filled with manure. A suitable crop to precede it is corn or potatoes, heavily manured and kept clean. Then plow in the fall, and add 40 bushels crushed bones per acre; and early in April, harrow thoroughly, and sow in drills, from 1 to 2½ feet apart, at the rate of 8 to 10 pounds of seed per acre. Stir the ground and extirpate the weeds with the cultivator and hoe, carefully pulling out by hand any that may be found in the drills. It may be lightly cropped the first year, and more freely the second, but it does not attain full maturity till the third. The roots strike deep into the ground, and being a perennial, it requires no renewal except from the loss of the plants by casualties. It should be cut before growing too large, and cured like clover.

Liquid manure is good for it, as are also gypsum and ashes. Bard-yard manure is occasionally necessary; but to avoid weeds, it must be thoroughly fermented to destroy the seeds. It is sometimes sown broadcast, but the rapid progress of weeds and grass in the soil, will soon extirpate it if they are suffered to grow; and there is no means of effectually eradicating them but by cultivating the Lucerne in drills, and the hoe and cultivator can then keep the weeds in subjection. It is one of the most desirable plants for soiling. From the care and attention required, the cultivation of lucerne is properly limited to an advanced state of agriculture and a dense population, where labor is cheap and products high. In the neighborhood of large cities, it may be advantageously grown, and in all places where soiling is practiced.

A FARMER'S EXPERIENCE WITH SPRING WHEAT.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

In response to the invitation in your April issue, I give you my practice and experience in growing spring wheat. I plow all the ground I can in the fall, ten inches deep, keeping for the purpose a team weighing from 1,300 to 1,600 pounds. My soil is undulating, consisting of clay on the eminences, and muck in the depressions.

I have used three varieties of wheat of late years, viz.: Fife, China and Black Sea. I have about concluded to discontinue sowing the Black Sea, thinking that I can raise the other two varieties as cheaply and as safely against rust, while they will bring me from one to two shillings more per bushel in market. I have raised principally the Fife, the past season. I obtained $1 87½ per bushel for 613 bushels, which was as much as was paid for China at the time. The miller says that it does not make quite as white flour as the China, but that it makes enough more to enable him to pay as much for it as for the China.

The Fife variety has two advantages to the farmer over the China: First, it does not shell so easily in the field, and second, it is not so apt to crinkle down by wind and in rainy weather.

The past season demonstrated this perfectly. My Fife stood up nicely, while the China was down almost as badly as the Black Sea. This was the case as far as my observation extended.

I have a heavy cultivator, drawn by my "big team," which mellows the ground almost as deep as it is plowed where it has not packed down during winter (as is sometimes the case with fall-plowed land, where it has been imperfectly drained). Fall-plowed ground should be as effectually drained by dead-furrows or otherwise, as if sowed to a winter crop. Where the ground is not perfectly mellow, I cultivate twice in a place before sowing, and always follow twice in a place with the harrow after sowing.

Grass or clover seed is sown after harrowing and before rolling, which leaves the surface of my land in a beautiful condition—much better than it can be made by spring plowing.

I always aim to sow my wheat as soon after the 1st of May as possible, and do not care to sow it any earlier, lest it should not escape the wheat midge. By this late sowing my wheat has escaped this pest, while that of my neighbors, sown ten days to a fortnight earlier, has suffered severely. My wheat the past season yielded 755 bushels from 35 acres of breadth.

Owing to the wetness of the season, it did not do as well on the muck land, which produced too rank a growth, and blasting from one-half to one-fourth of the length at the

top of the ear or head. I sow 1¼ bushels of Fife, and from 1¼ to 1½ bushels of the China, per acre. L. KIEFFER.

STONE MILLS, Jefferson Co., New-York, April 7, 1856.

MILK FEVER IN COWS.

STAMFORD, C. W., April, 9, 1856.

EDITOR OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST:

In four years I have lost three valuable cows by what here is usually termed—Milk Fever. In England called less genteely but quite as expressive, "down calving." In one case, the cow was turned into the field well at night, was not seen again until after breakfast, and was dead by ten o'clock P. M. A second lived eight days, and the last five days, from the time of being noticed as sick. All three were in the first or second day from calving. The symptoms were a total prostration of strength, with a high fever. This were first treated by bleeding, and then linseed tea, and oat or corn meal pottage for a cooling drink, given in small quantities every two or three hours. All have been great losers from their extra milking qualities, and to such I learn the disease is confined or commonly so.

If any among the readers of the Agriculturist can point out a remedy or cure for so serious a complaint he will confer a favor probably on many by making it public.

The books, so far as I have consulted them, recommend bleeding first, then a soft opening drink, and if the animal live four or five days nourishing or spicy drinks, as the wind is often troublesome. My last cow a few days since suffered much from this cause, and on opening her the gall-bladder, and stomach, or runnet, were all distended beyond their usual capacity; while the manifold or third stomach, was packed close, and tight with food in a good state, except being rather dry so as to obstruct the regular passage. The lungs highly inflamed—all other parts exhibiting a healthful tone.

Bleeding I have lost faith in. One of my neighbors gives two or more doses of salts at proper intervals with success. Serious disorders sometimes require desperate remedies. This complaint is more common in England and less fatal. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Can bleeding or milking be safe if resorted too before calving?

Any one giving a practical answer to the above queries, will oblige at least one regular reader of your paper. E. JONES.

[We forwarded a proof of the above, to Mr. LEWIS F. ALLEN of Black Rock, and received the following reply in time to go with the letter itself.—ED.]

Of my own experience I know little or nothing of the above disease. I have, in several instances, both heifers with their first calf, and cows, had them secrete milk in great quantity in their udders for many days before calving. In such cases I had their bags and teats carefully bathed with salt and water, cream, or other softening applications, and milked once or twice a day, which gave them great relief, and facilitated their efforts in calving. I have drawn twenty quarts a day each, from more or less cows for a week or ten days before calving, and in every instance thus treated, both cow and calf did well. Had not this method been resorted to, both cow and calf might have been lost. Sufficient of good, and easily digested food should be given at meal times, and the cow kept quiet. I have never bled cows in such cases, and would not recommend it unless in extreme cases of inflammation where all other relieving applications fail.

PREMIUMS FOR IMPORTANT EXPERIMENTS WITH VARIOUS FERTILIZERS UPON CORN.

Previous to the last Annual Meeting of the New-York State Agricultural Society, we offered some suggestions in reference to giving a more practical turn to the operations of the Society, and recommended an extensive series of experiments, with the various fertilizers in market, upon a variety of crops and upon different classes of soils. The idea suggested was that, while a great ANNUAL SHOW might awaken an interest for the time being, as well as increase the funds of the Society, we needed some plan by which definite information could be gathered, and something tangible and reliable added to our limited knowledge of the actual value of the present modes of cultivation, and of the fertilizers recommended by various individuals. We proposed, among other things, that thorough experiments should be made under the direct supervision of an intelligent Committee, whose expenses should be borne while in the performance of their duties.

We are happy to learn that these suggestions are to be at least partially carried out, with reference to one important crop.

We are indebted to Col. B. P. Johnson, the Corresponding Secretary, for an advance proof copy of the regulations in regard to the experiments proposed to be made, which we give below, adding, that we hope there will be a large list of competitors, and that the Executive Committee will personally visit and supervise as many of the experiments as possible.

Extract from the Premium List of the New-York State Agricultural Society for 1856:

FERTILIZERS FOR INDIAN CORN.

The Executive Committee deeming it of great importance to ascertain the manure best adapted to Indian corn, one of the most important crops of this country, propose to award premiums for the best conducted and most satisfactory experiments with the manures hereinafter named.

It is desired that the field upon which the experiment is made should have been under cultivation for a considerable length of time, and if it has not been manured, and has been impoverished by continued cultivation of cereal crops, it will be the more acceptable. It is very important to ascertain the amount of phosphoric acid, sulphuric acid, potash, soda, lime, &c., required in the soil for the proper growth of Indian corn.

The *mechanical* condition of the field must be carefully attended to—and all *parts* of the field to be as much alike as possible. One-*fourth* of an acre for each plot, and *two* of these to be without manure of any kind. It is believed that this is as small a quantity of land as will secure reliable results, and it is of the utmost importance that the field experiments should be satisfactory.

PLATE OR MONEY PREMIUM, $75.

No. 1. The following preparations to be tried—each of the Nos. representing one-fourth of an acre.

Nos.

1. Without manure.
2. 4 tons well decomposed barn-yard manure.
3. 4 tons green manure from barn-yard.
4. 100 lbs. sulphate of lime.
5. 100 lbs. sulphate of ammonia.
6. 100 lbs. superphosphate of lime.
7. 75 lbs. of pearlash.
8. 50 lbs. of soda ash.
9. 25 lbs. sulphate of magnesia.
10. 50 lbs. sulphate of lime.
11. 75 lbs. of pearlash, 50 lbs. soda ash, 25 lbs. sulphate of lime, and 25 lbs. sulphate of magnesia.
12. As No. 11, with 100 lbs. sulphate of ammonia.
13. As No. 11, with 100 lbs. superphospate of lime.
14. As No. 11, with 100 lbs. sulphate of ammonia, and 100 lbs. superphosphate of lime,
15. As No. 11, with 50 lbs. sulphate of ammonia.
16. 50 lbs. sulphate of ammonia.
17. 50 lbs. superphosphate of lime.
18. 4 tons barn-yard manure, 50 lbs. each of sulphate of ammonia, superphosphate of lime, pearlash, soda ash, sulphate of magnesia, and sulphate of lime.
19. Without manure.

If potash, soda ash and magnesia cannot be readily obtained, unleached hardwood ashes may be substituted for them.

The *superphosphate of lime* should be made from calcined bones, and should be placed in direct contact with the seed. The sulphate of ammonia should be applied in the hill, with a little soil intervening between it and the seed. The pearlash or soda ash, must not be mixed with superphosphate or sulphate of ammonia before sowing. The other substances can be applied as convenience or custom dictates.

Superphosphate of lime from calcined bones, ground quite fine before admixture with acid, may be made as follows: Grind the calcined bones very fine; then, to 100 lbs. of bone dust add 75 lbs. of water, and mix thoroughly; then add 100 lbs. "brown or chamber" sulphuric acid, and mix completely, and repeat the process until the quantity required is made—(such a superphosphate can be sown with the smallest seeds, without fear of injuring the germinating principals.)

PREMIUM, PLATE OR MONEY, $50.

No. 2. (*Indian Corn*)—Each plot to consist of one quarter of an acre.

Nos.

1. Without manure.
2. Peruvian guano, 100 lbs.*
3. Mexican guano, 100 lbs.*
4. Commercial superphosphate of lime, 100 lbs.
5. Poudrette, 1 bbl.
6. Tafeu, 100 lbs.
7. Gypsum, 100 lbs.
8. Unleached ashes, 100 lbs.
9. 4 tons barn-yard manure.
10. 100 lbs. Peruvian guano, 100 lbs. superphosphate of lime, 100 lbs. unleached ashes, 50 lbs. gypsum.†
11. Without manure.

*GUANO.—In the application of Guano, it should be sown broadcast, and plowed or harrowed in. If applied to corn in the hill, it will certainly injure the seed.

†The ashes and gypsum are to be mixed together and sown broadcast before planting, or on top of the hill when the corn is a few inches high. The superphosphate and guano to be mixed together and applied in the hill, with sufficient soil intervening to prevent injury to the seed, or it may be sown broadcast, and plowed or harrowed in, as in Nos. 1 and 2.

TO MAKE A BALKY HORSE DRAW.—The London Times gives a remedy which proved successful. After all sorts of means had been tried and failed, it was suggested that

simple remedy used in India should be tried —that is, to get a small rope and attach it to one of the fore feet of the stubborn animal, the person holding the end of the rope to advance a few paces, taking with him the horse's foot, when, as a matter of course, the horse must follow. The suggestion was at first ridiculed, but at last a rope was brought and applied as described, when the horse immediately advanced, and in a few minutes was out of sight, much to the amazement of the crowd. The experiment is simple, and worth a trial.

WHAT OUR STAGE AND RAILROAD COMPANIES PREFER AS FEED FOR HORSES.

At a meeting of the Farmers' Club in this city, last winter, at our suggestion, a Committee, with Dr. Waterbury as Chairman, was appointed, to examine into the method of feeding adopted by the proprietors of the larger lines of stages and city railroads using HORSES and MULES. These companies employ from one to four hundred animals each, and carefully conducted experiments are made by them, in order to economize their feeding expenses as much as possible. The principal investigations were made by Dr. Waterbury, and we are glad to present a part of his report recently furnished us, as follows:

"The amount and kind of food consumed by animals depends on the amount and kind of labor they perform. Fattening animals are generally fed differently from working animals. Species and age make marked differences in the kind of food required by the same habits, climate and season of the year also, to a certain extent. Exercise produces, with animals, both an increased consumption of food and an increase in weight. Beyond this point there is increased consumption of food but a diminution in weight to a second limit, beyond which both are diminished, and the animal is "used up."

The Committee have received returns from the following stage lines in this city, as shown in the accompanying table:

STAGE LINES.	Number of animals.	Miles of daily travel.	Pounds of Cut Hay daily fed.	Pounds of Corn Meal daily.	Pounds of salt per month.	Increase of meal for the recent severe term of traveling.
Red Bird Stage Line	116	17	14	18	1½	3½
Spring-street do....	105	21	14	20	4	3 1-7
Seventh-av. do....	237	22	10	18½	1	2½
Sixth-av. R. R.: Horses.....	117	17	10	14	2	....
Sixth-av. R. R.: Mules.....	211	17	10	7	2	....
N. Y. Consolidated State Company..	335	21½	8	17	2·9	2½
Washing'n Stables, six livery horses.	....	....	12	7½**	....	....

** And six quarts of oats at noon.

It is the object of the stage Proprietors to get all the work out of their teams possible, without injury to the animals. Where the routes are shorter, the horses consequently make more trips, so that the different amounts and proportions of food consumed is not so apparent when the comparison is made between the different lines, as when it is made with the railroad and livery horses. The stage horses consume most, and the livery horses least.

The stage horses are fed on cut hay and corn meal, wet and mixed in the proportion of about one pound of hay to two pounds of meal—a ratio adopted rather for mechanical than physiological reasons, as this is all the meal that can be made to adhere to the hay. The animals eat this mixture from a deep manger.

The New-York Consolidated Stage Company use a very small quantity of salt. They think it causes horses to urinate too freely. They find horses do not eat so much when worked too hard. The large horses eat more than the small ones. Prefer a horse of 1,000 to 1,100 pounds weight. If too small, they get poor and cannot draw a stage. If too large, they ruin their feet, and their shoulders grow stiff and shrink. The principal objection to large horses, is not so much the increased amount of food required, as the fact that they are soon used up by wear. They would prefer for feed a mixture of half corn and half oats, if it were not more expensive.

Horses do not keep fat so well on oats alone, if at hard labor, as on corn meal or a mixture of the two.

Straw is best for bedding. If salt hay is used they eat it, as not more than a bag of 200 pounds of salt is used in three months. Glauber salts is allowed occasionally as a laxative in the spring of the year, and they eat it voraciously. If corn is too new, it is mixed with half rye bran, which prevents scouring. Jersey yellow corn is best; horses like it the best. They cut all the hay, and mix it with the meal and feed it wet. No difference is made between day and night work. The travel is continuous, except in warm weather, when it is sometimes divided, and an interval of rest allowed. In cold weather, the horses are watered four times a-day in the stables, and not at all on the road; in warm weather, four times a-day in the stables, and are allowed a sip on the middle of the route. The amount that the Company exact of each horse is all that he can do. In the worst of the traveling, they fed 450 bags per week of meal, of 100 pounds each. They now feed 400. The horses are not allowed to drink when warm. If allowed to do so, it founders them. In warm weather a bed of saw dust is prepared for them to roll in. Number of horses, 335. Speed varies, but is about four miles an hour. Horses eat more in cold weather than in warm, but the difference cannot be exactly determined. The Company are deadly opposed to the Russ pavement; had rather have cobble stone.

To the above we add an extract from a spicy letter addressed to the Committee during the investigation by Dr. A. Bigelow, of Attica, Ind.—[ED.:

** "I am a great lover of horses—generally keep good ones, and do some fast driving in my business, and notice its effect upon horses; and having used them five years in Vermont, and ten here, I will give you the result of my observation. Vermont horses, like its inhabitants, are almost invariably raised on plain diet, but if the former arrive at maturity without having the "heaves," and the latter consumption, they can beat the world for power of endurance. The horses seldom see oats or any other grain, till they are old enough to work, and then "mighty little," as everything there must be done up on the "cheap." The Indiana colts are generally allowed to eat all, or nearly all the corn they like, summer and winter, commencing as soon as they have teeth to masticate it. The result is, for fast driving, they are comparatively useless forever, though at slow work they do very well. When I first came here, I was struck with the multitude of diseases that horses are afflicted with here, that are seldom or never known in Vermont; and although some of them may be attributed to the climate, I am convinced most of them are caused by giving them too much corn. These diseases are, in part, the following: Stiff complaint, (something like a horse foundered all over,) fistula, sweeney, (perishing of the scapular muscles,) pole evil, general lameness without any apparent cause, and blindness, which is very common. Now, are not all these diseases nearly allied to the gouty inflammations that follow high living in the genus homo? (Hope I do not hit any member of the Club.)

A fine colt, that perhaps never had a halter on him, will be attacked with inflammation of the eyes--one or both--generally sclerotitis or conjunitivis, and in spite of knocking out the "blind teeth," "cutting for the hock," if the corn diet is continued the eyes are lost.

I find that if I keep a horse on corn instead of oats, he will surely "fail up" sooner or later. He will endure through the winter, but it will tell the following summer, though corn be discontinued in the spring. I happened, accidentally, to find a mare five years old, who was so vicious that her master could not use her, and he said he did not care a fig if she starved to death, and treated her accordingly. I bought her, tamed her down, and she is the first sound and hardy horse I have ever had since. I would like to give some of your Long Island boys a chase with her. Therefore, my directions for feeding a Western horse would be, to give him five ears of corn twice a-day, and all the good oats and hay he will eat; for a horse raised on corn, will grow poor on oats and hay alone; but *if* he has been properly raised, do not poison him with corn."

DEAD HORSES, &c.

Editor American Agriculturist:

I would like to call the attention of my brother farmers to the following questions, and have them answered through the Agriculturist.

1. How long will it take a *dead-horse* to waste away, when exposed in an open field or left in the woods?

2. How long would it take a hundred crows to consume the carcase?

3. How many cubic yards will he scent with his perfumery in a hot day of June, July or August.

4. Which is the most savory, a dead horse, a dead cow, a dead sheep, or a dead lamb, cat or dog?

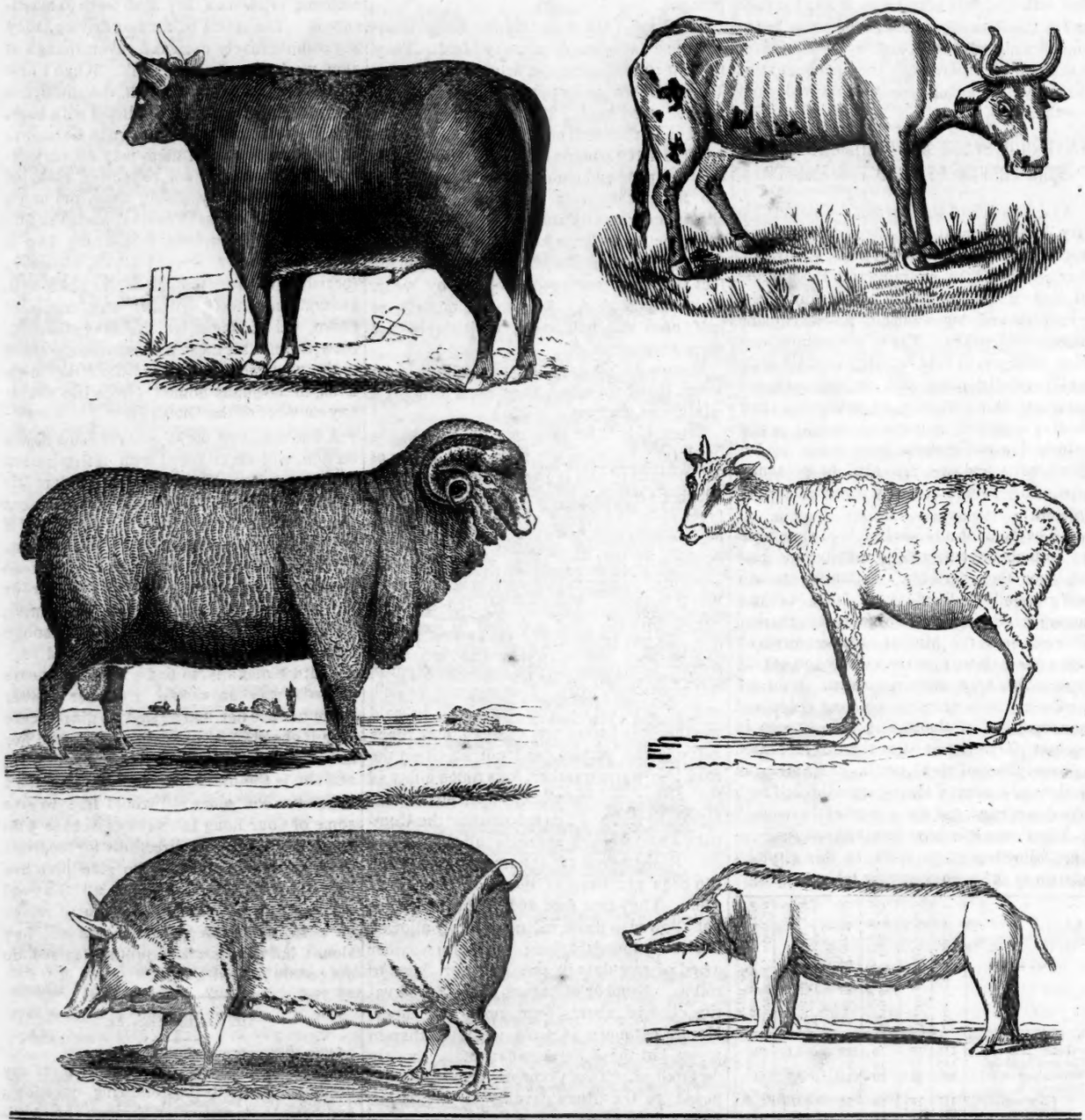
5. If all these dead animals were *buried below* the ground instead of being left on the surface would the public health suffer?

RUSTICUS.

(Not) A POLITICAL ARTICLE.

FOREIGNERS. (Naturalized.)

NATIVES.



THOSE "ORNAMENTAL DEAD LAMBS."

A correspondent, referring to the question in the Agriculturist, writes:

I take this occasion to answer "CITIZEN," what dead lambs are hung upon trees, fences, &c., for. The practice prevails extensively in this part of the country. My neighbors say that it is to keep the dogs from getting them, as that will learn them to kill sheep. But I think it is a bad sign to have dead lambs, any way. It has been the practice of many hereabouts, to have their lambs come in very early in the spring, and then get them all fat for market, as soon as possible, so as to make a profit on the sheep, and make the price of the lambs clear. But our last two winters have been unusually severe, and consequently very hard upon young lambs.

I tried my luck at buying some sheep, in the year 1854, as I had a plenty of keeping for them. I kept them in a warm place, with plenty of good feed and everything that they could want; but out of eleven lambs, I only raised five. They were a mixed breed of Merinoes, from the northern part of the State of New-York. Cannot some of your subscribers tell me, whether the South Downs would not be preferable, and whether they would not stand these hard winters better?

I am very fond of raising early lambs, and any one that would tell me how to do it successfully, would confer a benefit on me and many of my neighbors; and then the "CITIZEN" would not have his eyes troubled with "dead lambs."

A YOUNG FARMER.

LIBERTY CORNER, N. J., April 7, 1856.

TIMOTHY BUNKER, ESQ.

This gentleman of the old school, whose name has repeatedly appeared in our pages has elicited so much interest, that we give a brief sketch of his career to satisfy the public curiosity. He now holds the office of Justice of the Peace, though he was so late in arriving at this honor, that every body calls him Tim Bunker, just as they used to. He himself blushes at the title, and perhaps feels insulted if any of his old neighbors call him anything else. It is said, however, that his wife in speaking of the husband of her youth to third persons, does sometimes give him the honors, but she is very careful never to call him Esq. Bunker, in his presence.

He was bred and born in Connecticut, and is a product of her soil and institutions so unique, that it were impossible for Tim Bunker to have grown up any where else. He would have been another man. He lives in Hookertown, in the first ecclesiastical society, and all his ancestry for five generations back, have been members of the church of the standing order in that ancient commonwealth. He is not himself a member of the church, but his orthodoxy is as vigorous and sturdy as the most devout member of the Puritan church where he worships. He reveres the institutions of religion, and is as punctual at the meeting house, on the sabbath, as the sexton or the preacher. His model man is Deacon Smith though he follows him afar off both in horticulture, and in religion. He is as zealous as the Deacon in the defence of the speculative doctrines of the church, and is quite as correct in his moral deportment. By all but his intimate friends, he is supposed to be a member; so correct is he, in his opinions and practices. His personal appearance is somewhat striking. He is just about medium size, square built and stout, and though past sixty, can keep up with the smartest of his hands in the field at any kind of work. He has an open manly face, expressive of benevolence, and his look does not belie his character. He is known far and near as an excellent neighbor, always ready to help at a bad job, to change work, to lend his horse or oxen, even when it is not quite convenient for himself. In dress, he is always behind the times. The Sunday hat has been his for five years, and neither rim nor crown has changed with the changes of the fashions. His dress is of the same age, and the only trouble pertaining to dress that agitates him is the apprehension that his habiliments will sometime wear out in spite of his scrupulous care. A change of suit always goes hard with him, and it requires the most adroit management of his good wife to get him safely out of the old into the new. He has been in a condition, which she calls "not fit to be seen" for a full year before she can effect a change of Sunday suit.

In politics Tim Bunker was a whig until the last presidential election since which time parties have become so much split up, that for once he has found himself entirely at a loss. For his part he can not see what people want to keep changing about so, every few years. If the world ever gets finished, and adjusted to a given position, he will be a supremely happy man.

He has always lived upon the ancestral farm, and by a life of industry has succeeded in bying out the rights of the other heirs, and now owns in fee simple, all the paternal acres. He is a good sample of the old style farmer, shy of books and papers, that treat of husbandry, and a frequent quoter of that old proverb that "old birds are not to be caught with chaff." Tim however was once caught, if not with chaff, at least with something very like it. Some five and twenty years ago, there was a Rohan potato fever that infected all Hookertown. Many of his neighbors who read the paper experimented with the article, and among the rest his model man Deacon Smith, went into the speculation. Tim Bunker believed in practical farming, and as these potatoes were manifestly a reality, he bought of the Deacon a bushel of Rohans, for ten dollars. This was pretty warm in the mouth, but as some sold for fifteen the same season, he was satisfied with his bargain. It was the last year of the speculation, and the Fall crop was dull in the market at a dollar the bushel. Tim Bunker rubbed his eyes, with both his forefingers in the harvest, and declared that he would never touch another new thing. But he has repented of that vow, and adopted quite a number of new things that have been tested in the Deacon's garden. He is always certain to make the Deacon pay for his own experiments, and only adopts the new fruit or vegetable, when he is certain it will pay. He has lately got wind of the Dioscorra Batatas. His neighbor lent him the nursery pamphlet, in which the wonderful productiveness of that astonishing tuber was duly set forth. Tim digested its contents, and when he returned the pamphlet, very drily inquired, "Deacon, does not this make you think of the Rohan?" He will not purchase this year.

Conservative as he is, there is manifest progress with Mr. Bunker, and a real improvement is sure to find its way, in due time, to his farm. The debt and credit account of his adventure in purusit of the blackberry plants as he read it in the Deacon's Agriculturist, struck Tim full in the face. He has not stopped thinking of it yet, and we hope to record his name, before a great while, upon our list of subscribers.

P. S.—The seed has borne fruit. We received the following letter this morning:

HOOKERTOWN, Ct., April 15, 1856.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed please find $1 for the Agriculturist, for one year.

TIMOTHY BUNKER.

O. Judd, Esq., New-York City.

THE MAN DIOGENES WAS LOOKING AFTER.—Judge W. B. Robertson, of the Sixth District Court, in La., on discharging the Grand Jury Tuesday last, reprimanded himself for having forgotten the day fixed by law for the present term of court in this Parish, and for this oversight informed the jury that he should fine himself twenty-five dollars. He immediately drew a check for the amount, and handing it to the Sheriff, instructed him to collect the same and give it to the Female Orphan Association of Baton Rouge.

Lawn, Orchard, Garden, &c.

SHARP HITS AT "BUILDERS" OF SUB-URBAN VILLAGES.

The Horticulturist for April gives some decidedly wholesome advice to the getters up of country villages. The "city Fathers" of many country towns already "built" may profit by a perusal.—ED.

Editor. And so my worthy friend, you have turned rural improver, and are planning not only for your own homestead, but actually laying out a village?

Improver. Ay, am I! The railroad from the city passes through these farms, which I have purchased cheap, and I am enacting the character of *a founder.*

Editor. Very good; every citizen who becomes a purchaser will have cause to thank you in the improved health of his family, and their increased enjoyments. What is the size of your lots?

Improver. Single lots, twenty feet by one hundred; double lots, just twice that size. In the alleys you see here on the plan, the plots are fifteen by sixty. It cuts up beautifully!

Editor. And, pray, why do you follow so exactly the plan of all rectangular cities?

Improver. Because it cuts up the land to so much greater profit. I mean to clear a hundred thousand!

Editor. That prospective profit is not so clear to me. I can see no advantage you offer; no inducement to leave one closely-packed city to come and found another.

Improver. Why, my dear sir! look at the prices here and at those in town! I sell now for a dollar a foot on ground rent, while, in the city suburbs, prices vary from six to ten dollars.

Editor. That may be very true; but, to beginners, you offer neither good schools, paved walks, water, nor gas; and as for a garden, except one purchases a dozen of your "single lots," and that would be expensive, I shall be greatly surprised if you have any customers.

Improver. Really, you are not very flattering! I go upon the notion that there is a fool born every day, and if I can get but one year's crop into my net, the hundred thousand is secure. They won't find out that it is to be a crowded town till it is pretty well built, and then I needn't care.

Editor. I came to see your lots, induced by your flaming advertisement; you did not know I thought of becoming a purchaser! A glance at your map was discouragement enough; your unblushing avowal of your selfish purposes is apparent on the face of your plan; so, taking no advantage of your declarations, let me point out to you where you are wrong. In the first place, this broad continent is large enough to give every household at least room and verge enough for a kitchen garden, and a place, besides, for his children to play in, without always resorting to the streets. I can see no reason why you should pocket an hundred thousand dollars from the earnings of others

when they can as readily make their own purchases on the line of the same railroad.

Improver. I beg your pardon; this is the nearest land to the city that can be bought in this way. Besides, you see I have left lots for a church and a public square.

Editor. A public square! Why, truly, it is a square; but it is not large enough to pasture a single cow, much less to serve as a healthful promenade for a closely packed public. You should have left acres instead of feet, laid it out tastefully, and planted it with a great variety of the best and most beautiful trees.

Improver. Ah yes! you don't catch me paying out cash for such things as those! I have enough to do to persuade people of the advantages I offer. I have an office in town for this purpose, and advertise in all the papers.

Editor. Advantages! You mean to say, you design to take advantage of your purchasers! Now, this is all wrong. Shall I tell you what you ought to do? It is not too late, and if you will follow my advice, you may dispense with your office in town, and the people will come to you.

Improver. Ah! I wish you could bring that about.

Editor. Nothing easier. There is an appreciation of beauty underlying all the rough natures and busy merchants, which, if once awakened, is sure to respond to a good leadership. The ladies, too! Why surely you can have few advocates for your plans among those best portions of the creation. And, without the ladies' approbation, depend upon it, you can accomplish nothing. What you want is, first, to burn your map; get a surveyor and a landscape gardener (a real one, I mean) to lay out your farms according to some well-established principles. Don't think of levelling that knoll! It would be preposterous.

Improver. Excuse me! how should we fill up that ravine?

Editor. There is no occasion to fill up that ravine; to do so you would be obliged to throw an arch over the whole of that beautiful stream of water, and bury one of your best resources for beautiful results. You must build a strong, sound dam, and create a lake.

Improver. A lake! O dear! who would ever buy water lots?

Editor. Keep them, then, yourself, and agree, when you have disposed of one hundred lots, to present the lake to the residents. Place suitable trees around it; border with shrubbery and an intricate walk; place, if you find it will answer, a small island in your lake; plant a rustic bridge to it, and fill it with the choicest shrubs and flowers. Let every purchaser have a key to the whole, and my word for it, you will get more for your whole plot, if your other improvements correspond, than for your abominable city lots, with the old arrangement of alleys in the rear.

Improver. And pray, what would be the other corresponding improvements? I begin to comprehend you.

Editor. Nothing more palpable. Plant out your boundaries judiciously, say with Norway firs, to be kept down, after a few years, by cutting off the leaders; make a properly curved drive through the place, which shall approach in its gentle sweeps every acre or half-acre of the *park!* Yes, a park, for the residence of reasonable human beings, who have enough of city when they are obliged to go to it for shopping. Let every plot be in itself a rural home, so contrived that its owner can pluck his own fruit, keep his own pony phæton, if he pleases, and look out of his windows without seeing brick houses.

Improver. I never thought of this. I will make a little calculation, and see *if it will pay.*

Editor. It will surely pay, and you will be remembered as one of the choice spirits of your age, instead of being—*nobody!*

OUT A FRUIT TREE.

[The following article we transfer from the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Mail—not to endorse all its statements, but because it furnishes several valuable suggestions.—Ed.]

Examples almost without number may be given, where single trees have yielded from five to ten dollars a year in fruit, and many instances in which twenty or thirty dollars have been obtained. If one tree of the Rhode Island Greening will afford forty bushels of fruit, at a quarter of a dollar per bushel, which has often occurred, forty such trees on an acre would yield a crop worth four hundred dollars. But, taking one-quarter of this amount as a low average for all seasons, and with imperfect cultivation, one hundred dollars will be equal to the interest on fifteen hundred per acre. Now, this estimate is based upon the price of good winter apples for the past thirty years, in one of our most productive districts; let a similar estimate be made with fruits rarer and of a more delicate character. Apricots, and the finer varieties of the plum, are often sold for three to six dollars per bushel; the best early peaches from one to three dollars; and pears from hardy and productive trees, two to five bushels per tree, with good management, is a frequent crop; and on large pear trees five times the quantity. An acquaintance received eight dollars for a crop grown on two fine young cherry trees, and twenty-four dollars from four young peach trees, of only six years' growth from the bud. In Western New-York, single trees of the Doyenne or Virgalieu pear have often afforded a return of twenty dollars or more, after being sent hundreds of miles to market. An acre of such trees, well managed, would far exceed in profit a five hundred acre farm.

But the anxious inquiry is suggested, "Will not our markets be surfeited with fruit? This will depend on the judgment and discretion of cultivators. With the exception of the peaches of Philadelphia and the strawberries of Cincinnati, a great deficiency is felt in all our large cities. Of these two fruits, large plantations are brought rapidly into bearing. The fruit, when ripe, quickly perishes, and cannot be kept a week; yet thousands of acres in peach trees, bending under their heavy crops, are needed for the consumption of the one city, and broad, fifty-acre fields, redden with enormous products, send many hundred bushels of strawberries daily into the other. If, instead of keeping but three days, sorts were now added three months, many times the amount would be needed. But the market would not be confined to large cities. Railroads and steamboats would open new channels of distribution throughout the country for increased supplies. Nor would the business stop here. Large portions of the Eastern Continent would gladly become purchasers as soon as sufficient quantities should create facilities for a reasonable supply. Our best apples are eagerly bought in London and Liverpool, where nine dollars per barrel is not an unusual price for the best Newtown Pippins. And by being packed in ice, Doyenne pears, gathered early in autumn, have been safely sent to Jamaica, and strawberries for Barbadoes. The Baldwin apple has been furnished in good condition in the East Indies, two months after it is entirely gone in Boston.

PREPARATION OF A SEED BED.

Very much of the success of cultivating the earth depends upon this. In gardening operations, it is a matter of vital importance. The seed-bed should be *deep*, RICH, and FINE. This last particular is, perhaps, more frequently overlooked than the others. Oftentimes the ground is planted just as the plow or spade leaves it, or only with a slight leveling by the hoe. But it should have, in addition to this, a very thorough raking with a fine-toothed garden-rake. These rakes are very much improved of late years, but their teeth still need to be lengthened, so that they will remove all the small stones and coarse clods to the depth of four or five inches. This fine tilth of the soil gives the first rootlets of the seed a great advantage. They meet with no obstruction in pushing their way into the earth, and find new food in abundance, at every step of their progress. The rain and atmosphere benefit plants much more for having a free seed-bed.—Ed.

ONE WAY TO GET EARLY POTATOES.

A gardener of Newtown, L. I., informs us that he gets good crops of early (or late?) potatoes as follows: He prepares the ground in the usual manner, adding plenty of manure. He then selects seed potatoes of good size, cuts them lengthwise into four pieces each, and plants the pieces eight inches from each other, in rows one foot apart. The ground is then made level and smooth with a roller or otherwise, and a good coating of salt hay spread over the whole surface. The hay keeps down the weeds, preserves the ground moist, and perhaps furnishes some nourishment to the growing bulbs. No hoeing or after cultivation is needed—the whole is summed up in preparing the ground, planting, mulching with salt hay, and digging the nice early bulbs.—[Ed.

THE CULTIVATION OF THE SWEET POTATO AT THE NORTH.

We have just opened our box of seed potatoes, laid down last fall, and our success has been so complete, that we are constrained to say a few words about the cultivation and keeping of this valuable esculent, for the benefit of our Northern farmers.

This root, of course, can be grown to better advantage in the latitudes south of New-Jersey, than farther North, and for those who live in the immediate vicinity of seaports, it may be no object to grow them. They can be furnished from the South at about 75 cents a bushel, and so long as common potatoes command the same price, it is no doubt, better economy to grow a root that is perfectly acclimated. But there are multitudes of farmers living remote from market towns, who seldom see the sweet potato, and who can only have them in plenty upon their tables by raising them. This, we are persuaded, can be done in most parts of the Northern States, with a very little management. It has been grown in the town of Ledyard, Ct., for thirty years or more, even without the aid of a hot bed to start them in the spring. It is a common thing there, for the farmers to grow their own supplies, though they are all near tide-water. We saw upon the grounds of Stephen Stoddard, Esq., of Ledyard, a piece of sweet potatoes, last summer, that would have done credit to a Southern plantation. He spoke of them as a common crop, and by packing them in chaff, succeeded in keeping them through the winter.

PRESERVING SEED.

This is a somewhat difficult thing, and it is, perhaps, more owing to this difficulty than to any other cause, that the cultivation of this root is not more general at the North. The tubers selected for this purpose are the smallest, or those about the size of a man's finger. These must be packed in some substance that will absorb all moisture, and protect them against the changes of the weather. Sometimes they are packed in sand, and kept near the furnace in the cellar, or near the kitchen fire. We packed our's in plaster and wheat chaff. We designed the plaster to absorb the moisture in case of decay, and the chaff as a safeguard against cold. They were placed in a room over the kitchen, and had the benefit of the fire in the kitchen stove, which was kept up constantly during the cold winter nights. It is important that they should be put into the packing-box in a dry state, and without any bruises or defects. About three-fourths of those put in came out in good condition; the rest were decayed, probably owing to bruises. The plaster prevented the spread of the decay to the sound tubers.

It is now quite common for nurserymen to keep the young sets of this plant for sale, and those who are near a nursery may easily procure the young plants at the time of setting, without the trouble of preserving them. The tubers are also always to be had in this city, for about $2 a bushel, in the spring, at retail, and there is no difficulty in getting fine plants from the marketable potatoes.

TREATMENT OF THE TUBERS FOR PROCURING SETS.

The best method is to put them in a moderate hot-bed, from the middle of April to the 1st of May. In two or three weeks, the sprouts will be up sufficiently to transplant. The longest shoots may be removed with the thumb nail, without removing the tuber from its bed. In a few days another growth of sprouts will come forward, which may be used for a second plantation, or for supplying any hills that have failed. They should be set out where they are to grow, from the middle to the last of May. If there is no hot-bed at hand, the tubers may be put in hills prepared for them, about the 1st of May.

THE BEST SOIL AND ITS PREPARATION.

A sandy soil is best adapted to this crop, though we have succeeded well on a heavy, gravelly loam. The preparation of the hills is a matter of a good deal of importance. These should be four feet apart, each way, so as to give ample room for the running of the vines, which often reach two or three yards. The hill should be raised eighteen inches to two feet high, and should be well manured. The droppings of neat stock, well mixed with loam or muck, are said to be the best fertilizer. But we have not found this indispensible. The object in raising the hills is to give them the full benefit of the sun and air during the heat of summer. If the spot selected for this crop has a southern slope, it is all the better.

CULTIVATION.

In hoeing this crop, care should be taken to increase rather than diminish the height of the hills. The vines, when they commence running, should be examined once in two weeks, and not be suffered to make roots at the joints. They immediately begin to form tubers wherever they strike root, and if suffered to remain, they will form a multitude of small tubers at the expense of large ones in the hill. By carefully lifting the vines occasionally, they will concentrate all their energies upon the tubers already formed, and will perfect them, both in size and quality.

GATHERING THE CROP.

They will continue to grow until the frost kills the vines. They should be dug on the morning when the first frost is seen, if not before. If they are suffered to remain after the vines are killed, the quality of the tubers is damaged in some way that we are not able to explain. This fact, we presume, is noticed by all who have cultivated this plant at the North. The vine is an ornament to the garden, and we would cultivate it for its beautiful leaves, even if it yielded no roots. The tubers are highly nutritious, and are relished by most persons who have once eaten them. We have found them quite as productive as the common potato, and think they amply repay the extra care needed to bring them to perfection. Our crop was five bushels upon a small patch of garden soil, that would have done well to yield the same quantity of Irish potatoes. The quality is, perhaps, not quite equal to the best Carolinas, but is as good as the Jerseys. The demand for them in the home market was lively enough, and the young folks, like Oliver, were continually longing for more.—[Ed.

HOW TO PLANT SQUASHES, MELONS, &c.

Squashes, Melons, and Cucumbers require a peculiar treatment in order to yield the best results. They will, indeed, grow and bear fruit if they are stuck down almost anywhere, amidst other crops; but we have always succeeded best in giving to these vines a place by themselves, and in preparing hills specially for their growth. A southern aspect is the best, and a warm, sandy or gravelly loam. But a sandy soil is apt to be deficient in moisture at the time when it is most needed to perfect the fruit. We therefore have it well trenched, and compost worked in, at least eighteen inches deep. To prepare a hill, dig a hole thirty inches deep and three feet across; fill this half full of compost, made of three-fourths muck or peat, and one-fourth stable manure. Guano may be substituted for the manure in the compost; fill the remainder of the hole with the surface soil, and elevate the surface a few inches above the common level. About the middle of May plant the seed. When they come up, sprinkle the young plants with a powder made of four parts plaster of Paris, and one part of Peruvian guano, well mixed. This is best applied with a dredging box. It should be put on immediately after every shower, if it rains twice a day. It will keep the bugs off, but only while it remains upon the leaf. The proportions are important. If there is a trifle too much guano in the mixture it will destroy the leaf. The design of the large hole filled with muck, is to retain the moisture for the vines while in the most active state, in July and August. Squashes treated in this way will do their best, and pay for the extra trouble. The best Squashes and the only ones that ought to be raised for the table, are the Boston Marrow and the Acorn. They are just the right size for use in the family, and are of the best quality. The true Valparaiso is of good quality, but is too large. While Squashes are so easily raised, we doubt the economy of raising Pumpkins. A Squash is much richer, and will grow larger. The French seeds sent out from the Patent Office, the last two years, have done very well, and have made a sensation at the Fairs, by their enormous size. They frequently reach a hundred pounds, and sometimes two hundred. They will be valuable for feeding cattle, and perhaps for use in hotels and boarding-houses. Black Spanish, Green Imperial, Mountain Sweet, and the Orange, are good Watermelons. The Nutmeg and the Green Bay are the best among the green-fleshed Melons that we have tested. Both are superb, and ought to be upon every farmer's table in their season.—Ed.

"My dear Polly, I am surprised at your taste in wearing another woman's hair on your head."

"My dear Joe, I am equally astonished that you persist in wearing *another sheep's wool* on your back."

SALSIFY, OR OYSTER PLANT.

This root is as easily grown as the parsnip, and why it is not as generally cultivated we are unable to say. It makes a much more palatable dish, and is certain to be relished by all who affect the delicious bivalves of the same name. If you have a spare square rod of land, do not fail to put in a paper or two of Salsify seed, from a reliable seed store.

Salsify may be sown from the first of April, or earlier, until the second week in May, in this latitude, and later still, further north. The soil should be moderately fertile, and not very heavy, and be spaded pretty deeply, or better, trenched, with a little manure put at the bottom of the trench only. Sow thickly, in shallow drills, eight to ten inches apart, and cover not more than half an inch deep. When the plants are well up weed them, and thin out so that the plants will be four or five inches from each other in the rows. A few weeks after, when the growth is well established, one-half of the weaker ones should be again removed, so as to leave them eight or ten inches asunder for the final growth.

Repeat the weeding afterward as may be needful, and during dry weather give a plentiful watering occasionally. It will be found highly advantageous to add to the water a little Peruvian guano, say, an ounce to two gallons, thoroughly stirred in. Urine from the house, or manure liquids from the stable or yard will answer the same purpose. No other cultivation is required.

In September and October the roots will have attained a considerable size, and you may commence taking them up for use.

When plants are left in the ground till the following Spring, they send up shoots which may be cut and used for asparagus.

The plant is a native of Great Britain. The root is not so large as the parsnip, but may, with good cultivation, be brought to an inch in diameter. The root is hardy, and may remain out all Winter. A part of the crop may be dug and put in the cellar in sand, to be used when the frost prevents digging them.

They make an excellent dish, cut in thin slices, rolled in batter and fried like oysters. How much they taste like that shell-fish will depend somewhat upon the strength of your imagination, and the measure of your faith.—Ed.

OKRA.

This is another plant not yet extensively cultivated at the North, but which deserves a high popularity. It is much cultivated in the Southern and some of the Middle States, chiefly as an addition to soups. Its long green pods, full of seeds, and abounding in mucus, form the chief ingredient in the famous "gumbo soup." It also makes an excellent stew, cooked as snap beans. The plant grows some six feet high, has a beautiful leaf and flower, and is worthy of its place in the garden, for ornamental purposes. The flower resembles that of the cotton plant.

The seed should be sown in drills, two-and-a-half to three feet apart, early in May. Thin out the young plants to six inches apart, and hoe frequently, to secure rapid growth. The pods are only good in the green state, when full of mucilage.

We last year secured seeds of this plant, from the Gaboon River, in Africa. They came up well, and matured perfectly. The pod is much shorter and thicker than the variety in common use. The seeds, when perfectly ripe, are said to make an excellent coffee, burnt and ground like the berries of the coffee plant. All who affect soups should give the Okra a place in their vegetable garden. The plant needs no forcing, is hardy, and is grown as easily as sweet corn.—Ed.

BEETS IN THE GARDEN.

We suppose all good gardeners have a thrifty bed of beets already planted, still it is not too late to plant another bed. They may even be sown to the last of this month.

A garden well laid out, with all the vegetables growing in rows, or in imitation of some geometrical figure, presents a fine appearance to the eye, and this practice is to be commended. We have, however, found it advantageous to have a plot of beets in some less conspicuous part of the garden, which was planted more with regard to economy than beauty.

For this purpose we take about a square rod of ground, and as soon as it will do to work it, sow it thickly with some early variety of beets, putting on the seed broadcast, and digging it in with a hoe. If the plants come up very thick, we pull out a part at the first weeding. As soon as they begin to interfere with each other, we pull up a quantity, and boil roots and tops together, and thus have a good dish of greens. The thinning process goes on almost daily till late in the summer, and this single rod of ground furnishes us an abundance of greens, and there is still left growing a good crop of beets, which have been benefited rather than retarded, by the stirring of the ground while thinning them out. We are aware that the above plan contains nothing new to many, but we have visited scores of gardens where the only practice was to sow beets in rows, with the seeds at a distance of three or four inches from each other.—Ed.

THE CABBAGE CROP.

It is not yet too late for the main crop of cabbages. Indeed cabbages to be laid in for winter use *may* be set out all through the month of June. If they mature too early, the heads burst and prove worthless for marketing. It is better to have them still growing in full vigor, when you take them up the last of November for heeling in. Therefore prepare a seed bed the first of this month, and another the last, for successive crops of this vegetable. In making a bed, take a bushel or two of refuse charcoal from the bin too fine too kindle fires, or the cinders thrown out from railroad engines. This is very valuable in inducing fine fibrous roots on the young plants. Rake into the bed also about a half bushel of ashes to the square rod, at the time of sowing the seed. This will prove a safe guard against the attack of the grub. It is also said to prevent the club foot, which often destroys this crop in old garden soils. We have found the Premium, flat Dutch, and the Bergen good varieties for late summer and fall use. Get good seed from a reliable source. There is a great difference in the quality of seed. And now while we are speaking of this crop, we would say to every cultivator, grow your own seed from the finest heads selected for the purpose. This is the safest way to make a sure crop, and to have the size of the heads increase every year.

You can set the young plants thirty inches apart, between the early Yorks, which will be out of the way by the middle of July. If the soil is specially prepared, use no manure from the pig-stye, as it induces the finger and toes, and spoils the crop. Stable manure well trenched in will give a good crop. Sea manures are also valuable for cabbage.—Ed.

NASTURTIUMS VERSUS CUCUMBERS.

Whoever wants a nice pickle, let him plant the seeds of the Nasturtium, or Indian Cress. The vines are rampant, and need a trellis, or brush to support them. They make beautiful screens, wherever one is needed. The flowers are very showy, and surpass many of the products of the flower garden. The curled leaf, stems, and green seed pods are eaten as salads, or made into pickles, rivaling capers. A row of these plants, a rod long, will supply a family. The seed pods should be picked every other day, when they are young and tender. If left till they are old they become hard and more unpalatable. They may be washed clean, and put immediately into vinegar in glass jars, where they will keep a year or more without any additional trouble. Most who have cultivated them prefer them to the cucumber or the pepper. Order a paper of seeds and try them.

CULTIVATION.

Nasturtiums will flourish in almost any soil, but prefer a light, fresh loam. If the ground be very rich there will be too many vines and leaves, at the expense of the pods or berries. They may be sown from the middle of March to the latter part of May, in this latitude—the earlier the better, however. Sow in drills, putting the seeds two or three inches apart, and cover about two inches deep. As above remarked, they need a trellis, wall, or brush, for the vines to run upon. For field cultivation, on a large scale, the rows should be two feet apart, to admit a plow or cultivator between them, but in a garden, six to twelve inches is quite sufficient. Weeding and watering, in very dry weather, is all the cultivation needed. They continue flowering from June to October. The berries, for pickling, should be gathered in August and September, while green and fleshy.—Ed.

A hen is better pleased with a grain of corn than a gem.

EGG PLANT.

This delicious vegetable, after it comes out of the hot bed, and is well established, is as easily cutlivated as the potato. It is a tropical plant and needs forcing in the spring in order to mature in latitudes north of this city. But the plants may be procured the last of May, from the nurserymen and vegetable gardeners for a trifle, and every man can then raise his own vegetable eggs. They are gross feeders, and want a southern aspect and plenty of room, say three feet between the plants.

The taste for the plant is, perhaps, as artificial, as that for the tomato, but once formed it is highly relished. To prepare the fruit for cooking it should be cut in slices about a fourth of an inch in thickness, salted a little, and be allowed to remain over night. Fry them with thin slices of pork till they are nicely browned. Two dozen plants well cared for will supply a family.—Ed.

GOOD RADISHES AT LITTLE COST OR TROUBLE.

Every body loves radishes, though some persons of sedentary habits, or with weak digestive organs, are unable to use them. The chief difficulty with such persons is, that they do not masticate them sufficiently. If care be taken to let no particle go into the stomach not mashed as fine as mustard seed, they will digest very easily, and give no trouble.

We have had an abundance of radishes at all seasons, without devoting a foot of ground to their special cultivation. Our plan has been simply this. As soon as the garden has been plowed or spaded, we have sown over it a small quantity of radish seed, broadcast. The subsequent working and planting of the soil buries these seeds, and as they come up, we destroy them as we would weeds where there is not room for them to grow. But there is always some space between rows or hills of other vegetables, where several plants may be allowed to remain till large enough to pull up for the table. Wherever there is any spare room, we scatter a few seeds when hoeing over the ground to kill weeds. This practice we follow up all through the summer, and a single shilling's worth of seed, thus sown in small quantities, every time we have gone into the garden to work, has furnished us an abundance of young and tender radishes at all times. When early peas come to maturity, we have young beets or radishes growing up on the ground occupied by them, from seeds which were sown during the last hoeing they received.

It is well known that on some soils radishes do not grow well, but by our plan of scattering them in every part of the garden, we have always hit upon some spots just suited to produce the nicest roots. Where they happen to be in the way of other vegetables, or where they produce tough, strong bulbs, we cut them down with the hoe and cover them with earth, and they aid to enrich the ground. Thus used, a comparatively small amount of seed will yield a more satisfactory and economical supply, than if a special plot were devoted to their cultivation.—Ed.

RHODODENDRONS—EVERYBODY MAY AND SHOULD HAVE THEM.

Directions for Culture, &c.

During this and the early part of the next month, the Rhododendrons, the finest of all hardy flowering plants, will put on their gorgeous robes and be arrayed in all their glory. Those not acquainted with them can have but a faint conception of the surpassing beauty of both their foliage and flowers. A description would be next to useless—to be fully appreciated they must be seen. (The best description is perhaps found in the etymology of the word. Rhododendron is derived from two Greek words, *Rhodon*, a rose, and *Dendron*, a tree, and signifies a tree of roses.) We propose now to speak of it only in general terms, and refer to the method of cultivation.

First, we may say, that unlike most of the more beautiful and showy flowering plants, the Rhododendron is so hardy, so patient of transplanting, and so vigorous even upon a poor soil, that it can be successfully grown, and with little care, every farmer and every owner of a village lot or plot, however small, may have one or more. Anybody who has room, time, and skill enough to grow a rose, may also have a Rhododendron.

The Rhododendron is usually propagated from the seed, and grows to the highth of five or six feet, though to attain this size requires ten or twelve years from the seed. It forms a complete *evergreen* shrub, with somewhat glossy leaves, of a thick texture, and bears large clusters of white, lilac and crimson flowers, each one of which is large enough for a lady's boquet. Owing to the peculiarity of our climate there have been but few Rhododendrons started from the seed in this country. Messrs. Parsons & Co., of Flushing, have some thirty or forty thousand seedlings, in pots, but they are not an inch in hight, as yet, and it remains to be seen whether the experiment will be successful. They are grown on an extensive scale in England, and the plants, when sixteen or eighteen inches high, are imported by the proprietors of our larger nurseries. The usual hight, when retailed from the nursery, is about one foot. The price of plants of this size has heretofore been about $1 each. They are now sold by the hundred for 50 cents, and even retailed at 50 to 60 cents each.

They can be set out at any season, though April and May are by far the best months for transplanting. They can be moved from place to place every year, if desired, without materially checking their growth or flowering. The foot-high plants, from the nursery, sometimes furnish flowers the first season.

Two species do not require Winter protection, but can be left in the open ground through the coldest weather without injury. This has been abundantly proved during the past Winter. Notwithstanding the long and severe freezing, which has injured many evergreens, always before considered hardy, we have, during the past month, seen thousands of Rhododendrons in vigorous health, and to all appearances unharmed.

Best Varieties for General Cultivation.—There are some 25 or 30 species of Rhododendrons, embracing hundreds of varieties. There are, however, but two species which can be relied upon in this latitude, as having been proved perfectly hardy. These are the Rhododendron Catawbiense and the Rhododendron Maximum. The R. Ponticum is one of the finest in England, but is not sufficiently hardy for out-door cultivation here.

The Rhododendron Catawbiense, though not more hardy, excels the Maximum in the brilliancy of its flowers, and in the color and compactness of its foliage. Everything considered, we advise a choice of the Catawbiense in preference to all others. The plants, as purchased in the nurseries, are seedlings, and the chances are, that no two in a hundred or a hundred thousand will produce blossoms precisely alike, in coloring and shade. This sporting character is one of the beauties of this plant.

Soil.—The Rhododendron will grow well in any garden soil, but will be benefitted by adding, one-half of a sandy peat, light muck, and especially decayed leaves and rotten wood are very good for this purpose.

Transplanting.—As above stated, this can best be done at this season. The roots are very fibrous, and, if not too violently handled, they retain considerable soil when lifted from the ground. If not to be transported far they can be taken up and moved from place to place at any time, about as easy as the furniture in a room. English gentlemen frequently remodel the appearance of a whole lawn, by shifting this and a few other plants around from year to year. When to be sent far they are packed in boxes with some of the soil upon their roots, and in this way may be carried safely to any distance, by land or sea. When received, they are to be set out just like any tree or shrub. Unless the soil be light and peaty it is better to dig out a space, say two feet in diameter, and one foot or more deep, and fill in with a mixture of any good surface soil, peat, decaying leaves, &c. No manure should be used at the time of planting, though a soil well manured a year or two previous is desirable.

Pruning is not required, and the knife should be used very sparingly, if used at all.

A Suggestion.—A friend at our elbow suggests that any one having a number of Rhododendrons in bloom, may lift a number of plants, place them in pots or upon dishes, carry them into a room during an evening when a party of friends chance to be gathered, and the next morning return the plants to their place in the lawn, yard, or garden, without any injury to them whatever.

We have thus endeavored to set forth some of the excellences of this plant, and to give all needed information in regard to its cultivation. If we have overlooked any point we shall be glad to be reminded of it if any one needs further particulars.—Ed.

A good conscience is good company.

NEW-ROCHELLE OR LAWTON BLACKBERRY

This valuable plant may still be set out during the first two or three weeks in May—the earlier the better. We have heretofore said so much in favor of this variety that we will now only add a word or two regarding its cultivation. We have seen it growing and bearing finely on dry upland soil, though Mr. Lawton and others state that it delights in moist soil, and will produce abundantly in the most shady borders of the garden, and even under fruit trees; and they recommend for a permanent plantation, a rich, loamy, and rather humid soil, well manured.

Great care should be taken to keep the roots from the sun, and from a dry hot atmosphere while they are out of the ground. With this as with almost all plants and trees, we recommend to let the roots lie in a puddle for a few hours before setting out. This puddle may be made by mixing any rich surface soil with water enough to form a thick but running mass. A mixture of one-fourth to one-half cow dung is excellent. See directions for setting out fruit trees in the Agriculturist for March. We append the following directions for planting, &c., from Mr. Lawton's circular:

Planting.—If put out in a dry season, throw into the place assigned to each plant about a gallon of water, and allow it to settle away; then regulate the earth for its reception, and put in the roots about three inches deep; a proper humidity of the soil will thus be preserved for a long time. Watering upon the surface hardens the soil, impedes the healthful influence of the air and dew, and often proves fatal to the plant.

Distance.—Against a wall or garden fence, plant them five feet apart, or where they can be approached on either side to gather the fruit, only four. For field cultivation, allow at least ten feet between the rows, (all of which space will be required the third summer,) for the convenience of gathering the fruit, when the plant has attained its full size and strength. Any gardener will know how to occupy the superflous ground until required for the proper cultivation of the plant.

First Year.—In forking up or weeding the ground, be careful not to injure the roots, so as to interfere with the growth of the new shoots, as they constitute the bearing wood (indeed the plant itself) for the following year, and if they are destroyed the plant is lost.

Second Year.—The plants will be firmly rooted, but of medium size only. Refore the buds put forth in the spring, reduce the length of the leading shoots about one quarter, and shorten also the laterals, aceording to their length, and they will produce a moderate crop of good fruit without further care, besides furnishing strong vigorous canes for the ensuing season.

Third Year.—The plants will now be in full bearing, and must be pruned and managed with due regard to their extraordinary size, productiveness and increase. All the old wood, having decayed during the winter, should be removed early in the spring after selecting three or four of the best new shoots in each hill for bearing. New plantations may be made with the other canes, or if not required for that purpose, they must be cut away close to the surface, and all the straggling shoots between the rows eradicated.

Pruning the Third Year.—Many of the principal shoots will now be from six to twelve feet high, and they may be cut off just below the bend (near the top), or reduced about one quarter of their length, and in shortening the laterals the cultivator will have acquired a sufficient knowledge of the plant to exercise a proper judgment; indeed, the pruning and management of the plant may no doubt in some localities be varied to advantage.

Props.—If the cultivator shall desire to support the plants, a cheap and convenient way is, to put posts at the extremity of the rows, and extend from them a single wire, to be elevated about four feet, and supported at proper intervals by stakes driven in the ground; to this the canes can be readily attached.

AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

This association which is doing much to advance the fruit-growing interests of our country, have issued their programme for the coming season. The Sixth Session, or Anual gathering, will be held at Corinthian Hall, Rochester, N. Y., commencing Wednesday, September 24, at 10 o'clock A. M., and continuing several days. The exercises will consist of reports from committees, and local associations; discussion and revision of the Society's Catologue of Fruits; value of fruits for general and local cultivation &c. Circulars giving full information can be obtained by addressing either of the following officers:

President—Marshall P. Wilder, Boston, Mass.; Secretary—H.W. S. Cleveland, Boston, Mass.; Treasurer—Thomas P. James, Philadelphia, Pa. Further information in regard to thespecific arrangements of the convention, will be announced in due time.—Ed.

BEAUTY ON EARTH.

"There is beauty enough on earth to make a home for angels."

There is a strange proclivity in man to misapply or neglect altogether, what was intended by the Creator of man for his comfort and profit. Those whom He has crowned with uncommon gifts of mind are prone to abuse the trust by perverting it to base uses, or to dim its lustre by indifference or excess. Those whom He has adorned with peculiar charms of person are too apt to employ those charms for unholy purposes. Those whom He has gifted with the hallowed influences of poetry, who have the power to entrance their fellows with a single sweep of the lyre, too often tune the Bacchanal note, and write for the hall of revelry, rather than in praise of the King. Witness the case of Isabella of Spain, of Byron, and tell us if these things are not so.

"How use doth breed a habit in a man!" The Queen who staggers under a load of jewels soon learns to despise the brilliant things and counts them as dross. The florist soon casts off the spell which his gorgeous array of blossoms first exerted, and regards them as mere matters of merchandise. The naturalist soon loses his admiration for charms and wonders of the natural universe, in wild speculation and scientific research. And man, walking in the light of God's material smile, surrounded by the loveliness that God has prepared, and partaking of the bounties that God has dispensed, soon becomes indifferent to them all.

Possession is wont to beget neglect, because we may enjoy the enchanting beauties of nature without money, without molestation, if comes that they pall upon us and render us restless and dissatisfied. Everything in nature is so much a matter of course that we sigh for something novel, something superior, something more gorgeous and absorbing. And yet neglect it as we will, "There is beauty enough on earth to make a home for the angels."

THE BOBOLINK.

A long time since we met with the following beautiful passage in Washington Irving's last Book entitled "Wolfert's Roost and Other Papers, and put it in that corner of 'Our Drawer,' marked 'for May.' If it gives others as much pleasure in the perusal as it has afforded us, the space will be well occupied. After referring to several Spring Birds the Author says:"

The happiest bird of our spring, however, and one that rivals the European lark, in my estimation, is the Boblincon, or Bobolink, as he is commonly called. He arrives at that choice portion of our year, which, in this latitude, answers the first of May, so often given by the poets. With us, it begins about the middle of May, and lasts until nearly the middle of June. Earlier than this, winter is apt to return on its traces, and to blight the opening beauties of the year; and later than this, begin the parching, and panting, and dissolving heats of summer. But in this genial interval, nature is in all her freshness and fragrance; "the rains are over and gone, the flowers appear upon the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land." The trees are now in their fullest foliage and brightest verdure, the woods are gay with the clustered flowers of the laurel; the air is perfumed by the sweet-brier and the wild rose; the meadows are enameled with clover blossoms; while the young apple, the peach, and the plum, begin to swell, and the cherry to glow, among the green leaves.

This is the chosen season of revelry of the Bobolink. He comes amidst the pomp and fragrance of the season; his life seems all sensibility and enjoyment, all song and sunshine. He is to be found in the soft bosoms of the freshet and sweetest meadows; and is most in song when the clover is in blossom. He perches on the topmost twig of a tree, or on some long flaunting weed, and as he rises and sinks with the breeze, pours forth a succession of rich tinkling notes; crowding one upon another, like the out pouring melody of the sky-lark, and possessing the same rapturous character. Sometimes he pitches from the summit of a tree,

begins his song as soon as he gets upon the wing, and flutters tremulously down to the earth, as if overcome with ecstasy at his own music. Sometimes he is in pursuit of his paramour; always in full song, as if he would win her by his melody; and always with the same appearance of intoxication and delight.

Of all the birds of our groves and meadows, the bobolink was the envy of my boyhood. He crossed my path in the sweetest weather, and the sweetest season of the year, when all nature called to the fields, and the rural feeling throbbed in every bosom; but when I, luckless urchin, was doomed to be mewed up, during the live-long day, in that purgatory of boyhood, a school-room. It seemed as if the little varlet mocked at me, as he flew by in full song, and sought to taunt me with his happier lot. Oh, how I envied him! No lessons, no task, no hateful school; nothing but holiday, frolic, green fields, and fine weather. Had I been then more versed in poetry, I might have addressed him in the words of Logan to the cuckoo:

Sweet bird! thy bower is ever green,
Thy sky is ever clear;
Thou hast no sorrow in thy note,
No winter in thy year.

Oh! could I fly, I'd fly with thee;
We'd make, on joyful wing,
Our annual visit round the globe,
Companions of the spring!

Further observation and experience have given me a different idea of this little feathered voluptuary, which I will impart, for the benefit of my school-boy readers, who may regard him with the same unqualified envy and admiration which I once indulged. I have shown him only as I saw him at first, in what I may call the poetical part of his career, when he in a manner devoted himself to elegant pursuits and enjoyments, and was a bird of music, and song, and taste, and sensibility, and refinement. While this lasted, he was sacred from injury; the very schoolboy would not fling a stone at him, and the merest rustic would pause to listen to his strain. But mark the difference. As the year advances, as the clover blossoms disappear, and the spring fades into summer, he gradually gives up his elegant tastes and habits; doffs his poetical suit of black, assumes a russet dusty garb, and sinks to the gross enjoyments of common vulgar birds. His notes no longer vibrate on the ear; he is stuffing himself with the seeds of the tall weeds on which he lately swung and chanted so melodiously. He has become a "bon vivant," a "gourmand;" with him now there is nothing like the "joys of the table." In a little while he grows tired of plain homely fare, and is off on a gastronomical tour in quest of foreign luxuries. We next hear of him with myriads of his kind, banqueting among the reeds of the Delaware; and grown corpulent with good feeding. He has changed his name in traveling. Boblincon no more—he is the *Reed-bird* now, the much sought for tit-bit of Pennsylvania epicures; the rival in unlucky fame of the ortolan! Wherever he goes, pop! pop! pop! every rusty firelock in the country is blazing away. He sees his companions falling by thousands around him.

Does he take warning, and reform! Alas, not he! Incorrigible epicure! again he wings his flight. The rice-swamps of the South invite him. He gorges himself among them almost to bursting; he can scarcely fly for corpulency. He has once more changed his name, and is now the famous *Rice-bird* of the Carolinas.

Last stage of his career; behold him spitted, with dozens of his corpulent companions, and served up, a vaunted dish, on the table of some Southern gastronome.

Such is the story of the Bobolink; once spiritual, musical, admired, the joy of the meadows, and the favorite bird of spring; finally, a gross little sensualist, who expiates his sensuality in the larder.

"AN AX TO GRIND."

The practical reader, in quest of some improvement upon the old-fashioned back-breaking method of grinding axes, (our's aches at just thinking of it,) may pass on to the next article—this one is for the boys who have not heard, perhaps, the origin of the popular saying—"He has an ax to grind." The great Benjamin Franklin was once only "little Benny," and his narrative of an imposition practised upon him at that period gave rise to the above saying, now so common and so expressive. His narrative runs thus:

"When I was a little boy, I remember one cold winter's morning, I was accosted by a smiling man, with an ax on his shoulder: 'My pretty boy,' said he, 'has your father a *grindstone*?' 'Yes, sir,' said I. 'You are a fine little fellow,' said he, 'will you let me grind my ax on it?' Pleased with his compliment of fine little fellow, 'O yes, sir,' I answered, 'it is down in the shop.' 'And will you, my man,' said he, patting me on the head, 'get a little hot water?' How could I refuse? I ran, and soon brought a kettle-full. 'How old are you, and what's your name?' continued he, without waiting for a reply, 'I am sure you are one of the finest fellows that I have ever seen; will you just turn a minute for me?' Tickled with the flattery, like a fool, I went to work, and bitterly did I rue the day. It was a new ax; and I toiled and tugged till I was almost tired to death. The school bell rang, and I could not get away; my hands were blistered, and it was not half ground. At length, however, the ax was sharpened, and the man turned to me with, 'Now, you little rascal, you've played the truant; scud for school, or you'll rue it.' Alas! thought I, it was hard enough to turn a grindstone this cold day, but now to be called a little rascal, was too much. It sank deep into my mind, and I've often thought of it since. When I see a merchant over-polite to his customers, begging them to take a little brandy, and throwing his goods on the counter, thinks I, 'That man has an ax to grind.' When I see a man flattering the people—making great professions of attachment to liberty—who, in private life, is a tyrant, methinks, 'Look out, good people, that fellow would set you turning grindstones.' When I see a man hoisted into office by party spirit, without a single qualification to render him respectable or useful, 'Alas! methinks, deluded people, you are doomed for a season to turn the grindstone for a booby.'"

HONOR AMONG BOYS.

If, as it is said, there is "honor among thieves," why should this noble quality be lacking in so many little boys?

"Boys will be boys," said one in reply to a remark of mine on this subject. This I know, and do not desire to see "old heads upon young shoulders." What I want is to beg boys to be governed by honor, and honesty, in their dealings with one another.

"Why don't you lend your skates and sled to the other boys when you are not using them?" I have asked, and been answered, "Because boys think nothing of breaking one another's things, and sometimes consider it smart, and then laugh at you for being so green as to lend them."

"But don't they pay the damages?"

Now was my turn to be laughed at for the absurdity of my question. "Pay damages! never!" This grated harshly upon a mother's ears, and I'll tell you why. Because in the first place I know how much a boy thinks of his first sled, first skates, and first pocket-knife. Many rich men who live in free-stone palaces in New-York will confess that they never had a greater prize than their first sled, with its bright paint and well-ironed runners, and that the possession of skates gave them many sleepless hours of delight. Now when boys know so well how much they prize their own things, is it not very much stealing, to carelessly injure another boy's property and make no effort to repair the loss?

"But how can a boy pay, when he has got no money?" I hear one of my readers say, perhaps impatiently.

He can go home and tell his father what he has done, and beg him to give him the means of repairing his loss. If his father sees fit to refuse his request, he can save his pennies till he has enough money of his own; or he can select from among his playthings something worth enough to pay for the harm he he has done, even if he has to give away a very precious toy. If he is too poor for this and has a little Yankee contrivance, perhaps he can mend the injured article and make it as good as new. If this can not be done, he can go to his playmate, and say he is verry sorry for the accident, and that he is not able to repay the damages, and then show his sorrow by improving the first chance to do his injured friend a favor. He will not have to wait long for an opportunity to show kindness which is better than money.

This is as much a young boy's duty as it will be when he is a few years older, and accidentally injures a borrowed horse and carriage, to repay the owner for his loss. A boy who will break another's knife, lose his ball, drop his new book in the mud, or break his sled, and then laugh at his playmate's distress, or even refuse to pay him n some way for his loss, will be very likely

to make a forger, defaulter, burglar, or perhaps something worse.

A mean unfeeling boy is a sad hopeless sight. Like a crooked, dwarfed, young tree, nothing grand or noble can be made of it. Age will only make it more ugly and despised.

It is too much the fashion among boys to scorn gentle loving manners, or leave their sisters to learn such ways, while they try to be what they call *men*. A boy who wishes to be a *true man*, "the noblest work of God," must begin while he is young to be honorable, and "do as he would be done by," for he will be the same person when he grows up that he is now, only stronger, larger, in mind and body, and better able to do good or evil. Let us by all means have "HONOR AMONG BOYS."—M. E. W., in Independent.

TOE CORNS.

R. C., of South Carolina, in writing to renew his subscription, appends to his letter the following reference to the article on CORNS published in the March number:

"I have had much experience with corns, having suffered from them all my life. Mine grow between my toes, and might be called moist corns. When they give me much pain, a small piece of leaf-tobacco, moistened, and put between the toes and over the corn, has never failed to give me relief; and, generally, a small piece of rag of any kind, or a little cotton, applied in the same way, fresh every day, keeps the corn from giving pain,—and were it persevered in, might ultimately cure them, if they can be cured—which, however, I doubt very much. I have tried burning in every way, without any other result than much pain, at the time; buckskin is not much better, and oil proved almost as severe as caustic, and with less benefit, if possible. Thick shoes or boots increased the pain by increasing the heat and moisture of the foot—the original cause of the disease with me.

Yours, respectfully, R. C.

NEW BEAUFORT, S. C. April 7.

Mr. "Green Yankee's" letter on dead lambs came after one on the same subject was in type. He takes about a similar view of the matter to that expressed by "A Young Farmer," on page 180.—ED.

AN APOLOGY—IF NEEDED.—Of some dozen intelligent *working* men, who are pledged to assist in furnishing editorial matter for the Agriculturist, from time to time, the greater part of them have been so incessantly occupied with Spring work, which "came all in a heap" this year, that they have not had a moment's time, night or day, to write down their experience. This has thrown us very much upon our own resources, but we trust even this number will not suffer by comparison with any other in point of practical instruction.

The old friends of the Agriculturist will, no doubt, be pleased to learn that it is "going ahead." *We* have never seen such a flocking in of new subscribers as have come by every mail, for a month past.

A large number of letters are still unanswered, Will the writers please have a little patience, and we will soon bring up arrears, as we have more business aid engaged from this date onward.

THE PORK TRADE OF THE WEST.

The Cincinnati Price Current gives "a full and final statement" of the pork-packing business in the West, the present season. The total for each State is set down as follows:

	1854-5.	1855-6.
Ohio	600,964	661,197
Illinois	369,862	412,307
Tennessee	14,200	62,400
Missouri	130,501	189,144
Kentucky	341,299	420,834
Indiana	501,325	479,001
Iowa	93,291	163,594
Wisconsin	37,500	42,500
Grand total	2,088,042	2,430,887
		2,088,042
Increase this season		342,845

The increase in weight is estimated at 11 per cent., equal to 229,453 hogs, which, added to the increase in numbers, makes a total increase of 572,298.

The Price Current has obtained from the different points the exact amounts transported over each railway leading East, from the 1st of September to the 1st of February, for the seasons of 1854–5 and 1855–6; and presents these returns as follows:

	1854-5.	1855-6.
Great Western (Canada) Railway, from Detroit	37,292	137,325
New-York and Erie Railway, from Dunkirk	119,427	109,710
Central Pennsylvania Railway, from Pittsburg	32,321	40,058
Baltimore and Ohio Railway, from Wheeling and Moundsville	57,883	64,717
Received by railway and lake at Buffalo	89,112	139,402
Total	336,745	491,212
		336,745
Increase this season		154,467

CANVAS BAGS FOR HAMS.—The hams should be well dried and smoked. If they are to be put up for family use, bags made of heavy cotton cloth, the shape of the ham, but something larger, with a drawing string at the large end, are the most convenient, and may be used several years if taken care of. Cover the hams neatly with brown paper and drop them into the bag—draw up the end and hang them up in a cool, airy house.

Or they may be covered with the paper as directed and the cloth cut to suit the size and form of the hams and then sewed firmly around them; then prepare a box or large tub of whitewash, made of common lime, about the consistency of cream, and dip the hams into this; then hang them up and dry them. If a neater article is required for market, dip them into a wash made of whiting, to which should be added sufficient thin paste to set the whiting; to this add chrome yellow to color to suit the fancy.—Louisville Journal.

What is it that causes a cold, cures a cold, and pays the doctor? *A draft.*

TO EXTRACT GREASE FROM CLOTH.—The following is suggested: To sixteen ounces of rectified spirits of wine add ten grains of carbonate of potash, (pure,) half an ounce of essential oil of Bergamot, and one ounce of sulphuric ether; mix and keep in a glass-stoppered bottle. Apply with a piece of sponge, soaking the cloth thoroughly when the grease is not recent. The mixture emits a peculiarly fragrant odor. and being a fluid soap, chemically composed, will be found a perfect solvent of oily matter.

REVIEW OF PRICES, WEATHER, &c.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST OFFICE,
NEW-YORK, April 28, 1856.

A reference to the figures below, summing up the transactions in Breadstuffs, and then to the table of comparative prices, will show the condition of the markets. The announcement of Peace in Europe, and the prospective opening of the Eastern Grain Ports, have greatly depressed the prices of Grain here. Further investigations show a large amount of Wheat and Flour at the West than many had anticipated—though not larger, perhaps, than we estimated them to be last Autumn. We spent several weeks—day and night—last October and November, in an earnest effort to ascertain the real condition of the Wheat and Corn crop, and we predicted *very low* prices on the opening of navigation this Spring, and advised farmers to sell *then*. We are very sorry, on the producers' account, that our predictions are proving true. *We* see no prospect of an improvement during the Summer, We advise to plant all the corn possible this month; let there be *quantity* enough to make up for any deficiency in price. We have neither time nor inclination to give farther speculation upon prospective prices, at this time.

We find upon our note-book, records of sales of Breadstuffs for 27 business days, ending to-day: of Flour, 281,600 barrels; of Wheat, 191,000 bushels; of Corn, 1,147,000 bushels; of Rye, 213,600 bushels; and of Barley, 44,200 bushels. Our last report, (March 28) for 25 business days gave of Flour, 257,700 barrels; of Wheat, 116,000 bushels; of Corn, 803,300 bushels; of Rye, 126,500 bushels; and of Barley, 16,200 bus.

The following figures show the present price of some of the principal agricultural products, and also the variations since our last report.

	March 29.	April 29.
Flour—Superfine No. 2		$4 75@ 5 50
Ordinary State	$6 87@ 7 00	5 50@ 5 75
Mixed Western	6 75@ 7 00	5 25@ 6 00
Favorite and Ex. State	7 12@ 7 50	5 75@ 6 25
Extra Genesee	8 50@10 50	6 50@ 9 00
Wheat—Canada White	1 75@ 2 00	1 70@ 1 90
Southern White	1 75@ 2 00	1 60@ 1 80
Southern Red	1 62@ 1 75	1 50@ 1 65
Western Red	1 37@ 1 62	1 34@ 1 30
Corn—Western Mixed	68@ 70	58@ 60
New Yellow and White	65@ 70	60@ 62
Rye	1 13@ 1 14	85@ 92
Barley	1 20@ 1 30	1 10@ 1 25
Oats—Western, &c	31@ 45	30@ 44
Cotton—Middling	10¼@ 10½	11¼@ 11⅝
Rice ₱ 100lbs	4 00@ 4 75	3 50@ 4 25
Pork—Mess ₱ bbl	16 00@16 25	18 00@18 50
Dressed Hogs ₱ lb	7¾@ 9	7@ 7¾
Lard, in bbls ₱ lb	10@ 10¼	9½@ 10½
Butter—Western ₱ lb	16@ 21	11@ 17
State ₱ lb	21@ 28	16@ 22
Potatoes—Carters ₱ bbl	1 75@ 2 25	1 62@ 2 00
Mercers ₱ bbl	1 50@ 1 75	1 12@ 2 62
Onions—Reds ₱ bbl	1 25@ 1 50	1 25@ 1 50
White ₱ bbl	2 00@ 2 25	2 00@ 2 50
Apples ₱ bbl	1 50@ 2 50	1 25@ 2 62

Beef cattle were in good supply and qual-

ity at the first three market days of the month; last Wednesday a short supply and an advance of 1c.a1½ per lb., the selling prices being for Premium cattle 12½c.a14c. per lb. net or dressed weight; First quality 11½c.a12c.; Medium quality, 10c.a11½c.; Poor quality, 9c.a10c.; Poorest quality 8c. a9c.; General selling prices, 10½c.a11½c. Average of all sales, about 11c.a11½c.

THE WEATHER.—The weather, during April, has been strictly according to the most approved almanac, with an exception or two. We have had no "snow squalls" hereabouts. The whole month has been mild and pleasant, the thermometer ranging most of the time from 40° or 45° to 60°, with very few cold nights. April showers and sunshine have alternated in rapid succession, since the 15th inst.—before that time, though it often sprinkled, not enough rain fell to replenish the long-time-dry cisterns. On Saturday, 12th, a tornado swept over Philadelphia, doing immense damage to buildings. We had a heavy blow, accompanied with a long, heavy rain here on Sunday and Monday, the 20th and 21st, which did some serious damage to buildings, &c. The rain suspended operations in the field for a time, and and filled the swamps and higher ground previously dry. It is now quite warm, with an occasional shower.

THE ADVERTISING COLUMNS are set apart for business men to tell their own story about their wares, for which they each pay a stipulated consideration, according to the amount of space occupied. We assume no responsibility for what is therein said, though we reserve the right to limit the space or to reject any advertisement we may not choose to admit.

☞ We have no connection, directly or indirectly, with any other business than publishing this paper. Our location in an agricultural street, and in rooms *rented* for our own convenience in an agricultural establishment, involves no connection whatever, either with the business of the street, or that carried on in other parts of the buildings we occupy. We wish it distinctly understood that we are *independent* of all subsidiary influences. We have the AGRICULTURIST to sell, and *nothing else*, and shall endeavor to make our paper worthy of being bought.

The above remarks have been called for by sundry insinuations that have come to our hearing. We hope not to be under the necessity of referrrng to this matter again.

Advertisements.

TERMS—(invariably cash before insertion):
Ten cents per line (of ten words) for each insertion.
No advertisement taken at less than one dollar.
By the column or half column, $12 per column for the first insertion, and $10 for each subsequent insertion.

TO LANDOWNERS.—A situation as Overseer or Farm Manager, is desired by a practical English farmer, of experience in this country; (is married, but without encumbrances;) has first class references, and is competent to manage a farm of large size. Address ROBERT GADD, at Mr. Lowry's, 942 Broadway, New-York City.
—112n38

DYNAMOMETER, for testing the draught of Plows and various Machinery—one of the most approved English pattern—for sale, or will be loaned for a reasonable price. R. L. ALLEN, 189 Water-st.

MAY FOR EVERGREENS.
When Deciduous Trees have commenced growing, and can no longer be moved, Evergreens can be moved safely.
Norway Spruce and White Pine for Trees, and Rhododendrons for Shrubs, will make the most dreary place look bright in the Winter. Roses and Flowering Plants, in pots, can now be planted in clumps upon the lawn. These, with all the varieties of Evergreens, can be obtained of
—112n6nc PARSONS & CO., Flushing, near New-York.

CHOICE SEED POTATOES:
PRINCE ALBERT—Recently imported, hardy, prolific and very superior quality.
EXCELSIOR.
EARLY JUNE.
NUTMEG.
KIDNEY.
RACE HORSE.
DIKEMAN.
All the foregoing are early choice varieties.
April 25, 1856. R. L. ALLEN, 189 Water-st. N. Y.

GARDEN, FIELD and FLOWER SEEDS.
—A large supply of the most desirable varieties of Garden Seeds; a choice and good supply of Flower Seeds; and Grass Seeds of all kinds. Field Seeds—Wheat, Oats, Corn, Barley, &c.
We take great care to have all our seeds fresh and best of their kinds, and offer them for sale at wholesale or retail on most favorable terms. R. L. ALLEN,
189 and 191 Water-st., New-York

PARSONS & CO., Flushing, near New-York, offer for sale their large assortment of APPLES, standard and dwarf PEAR, CHERRIES, PEACHES, PLUMS, and other Fruits.
To their stock of well-grown PLUMS, they would call especial attention.
They also offer a large assortment of the well-known and also the more rare Deciduous and Evergreen Trees and Shrubs.
They also grow for massing, and can offer, at reduced rates by the quantity, the different varieties of Maples, Elms, Lindens, and other Deciduous Trees, with many sorts of Shrubs.
They would also call attention to their Evergreens, which are unusually finely rooted and symmetrically formed. Of these they can supply Norway Spruce, at prices ranging according to size and form, from $10 to $60 per hundred.
Cedars Deodora, Siberian Arbor Vitæ, White Pine, Pines Benthamiana, and others, can also be supplied for planting in masses, at moderate rates.
Their stock of ROSES is always large, and can be furnished by the quantity at greatly reduced rates.
Their Foreign Grapes are propagated from bearing vines.
Their Exotic Department includes the desirable and rare sorts, and the Plants are well grown and thrifty.
Catalogues furnished on application. 105—116

LAWTON'S BLACKBERRY PLANTS.
PRICES FOR SPRING AND AUTUMN, 1856.

Packages of Six Plants	$3 00
Packages of Twelve Plants	5 00
Packages of Fifty Plants	15 00
Packages of One Hundred Plants	25 00

Orders supplied in rotation as received, and none sold but the pure plants of MY OWN RAISING. A reduction to clubs. The money should accompany the order.
Packages of roots will be forwarded by any express or transportation line leaving New-York city. WM. LAWTON,
No. 54 Wall-st., New-York,
111—tfn41 or at New-Rochelle, N. Y

NEW-ROCHELLE OR LAWTON BLACKBERRY.—The subscribers having devoted much attention to the cultivation of this new species of Blackberry for a number of years, have now the largest area of ground in cultivation of any in the country. Their Nursery, while in bearing, has been visited by thousands of persons from all parts of the States, and by all pronounced to be the "ne plus ultra."
Orders will be filled from our Grounds with great pleasure, at the following prices: One half-dozen, $2 50; One dozen, $5 00 Fifty, $12 50, and One Hundred, $25.
GEO. SEYMOUR & CO.
South-Norwalk, Conn., Jan. 20, 1850. 109—112n2

NEW-ROCHELLE BLACKBERRY.—Genuine Plants from the Original stock, deliverable in November, March or April, or sale by ISAAC ROOSEVELT,
95—116n1212N14 Pelham, Westchester Co., N. Y.

RHUBARB AND ASPARAGUS ROOTS for sale by R. L. ALLEN, 189 and 191 Water-st.

A GOOD TEMPERANCE HOUSE IN New-York is a great desideratum, especially one kept on THE EUROPEAN PLAN,
Where travelers and visitors can find
NEAT, QUIET ROOMS, WITH GOOD BEDS,
at moderate prices; and get their
MEALS WHENEVER OR WHEREVER DESIRED.
Such a HOTEL is
SAVERY'S TEMPERANCE HOUSE,
(On the European plan,)
at 14 Beekman-st., corner of Nassau, (In the Daily Times Block, near the Park and City Hall.)
This House contains 150 good rooms, all supplied with the best quality of hair mattrass beds, kept neat and clean. Prices 35 to 50 cents per night, including day occupancy; or $2 to $3 per week. Extra large rooms, $4 to $5 per week.
In the spacious Dining Rooms, gentlemen, with or without their ladies, can, at all hours, (from 6½ A. M. to 8 P. M.,) obtain meals or lunches, paying only for what they may order. The bill of fare is made out in the Federal Currency, thus: Tea or Coffee, 3 cents per cup; Pies, Puddings, &c., 5 cents per plate, (not 6¼ cents;) Meats, with accompaniaments, 10 cents, 15 cents, and 20 cents per plate, (not 12½ cents, 18¾ cents, 25 cents.)
A temperance man, the editor of a leading journal of this city, says;
"* * * SAVERY is, and always has been, a consistent temperance man, and he keeps his fine Hotel upon upright principles. * * * We are glad to inform our friends everywhere, that there is a GOOD, QUIET Home for them while stopping for a day or longer in this city, one every way worthy of their patronage, and where they will find fair accommodations on moderate terms. * * *"
112—tfn60

WILLARD FELT, No. 14 Maiden-lane, Manufacturer of Blank Books, and Importer and Dealer in PAPER and STATIONERY of every description. Particular attention paid to orders. 78—130

AGRICULTURAL SEEDS.—The subscribers offer, of the growth of the past year, and of the finest qualities, their large stock of

Early Yellow Stone Turnip, at 75 cents per lb,			
Yellow Aberdeen	do.	75	do.
Skirving's improved Ruta Baga	do., 50 cents per lb.		
Early White Stone	do.	75	do.
Large White Norfolk	do.	50	do.
Large White Globe	do.	50	do.

With twenty other varieties of Turnips, for which see priced catalogue.
ALSO,

Long Orange Carrot, clean seed, $1 per lb.			
White field	do.	do. 75c.	do.
Early Short Horn	do.	$1	do.
Long Red Mangel Wurtzel Beet, 50 cents per lb.			
White Silesia Sugar		do. 50c.	do.
Round Leaved Spinach, 75 cents per lb.			
New Flanders	do.	$1	do.
Prickly or Winter	do.	75c.	do.

And at reduced rates in quantities, and a full assortment of Vegetable, Flower and Field Seeds, warranted fresh, pure and true.
Lucerne and White Dutch Clover, Sainfoin, English and Italian Rye Grasses, Sweet-scented Vernal Grass. The Fescues and other varieties of foreign Grasses, and the most approved mixtures of English, French, and domestic Grasses for lawn purposes.
Norway Spruce, and other Evergreen Seeds, Osage Orange and Honey Locust, for hedges; Yellow Timber Locust: improved King Philip Corn; Japan Peas, &c. &c.
Priced catalogues mailed to applicants inclosing a three cent stamp, and orders by mail promptly responded to.
J. M. THORBURN & CO, 15 John-st., New-York.
DIOSCORREA BATATAS—New Chinese Potato or Yam, at $3 per dozen. Description and direction for culture furnished to applicants. —112n52

ISABELLA AND CATAWBA GRAPE VINES, of proper age for forming Vineyards, cultivated from, and containing all the good qualities which the most improved cultivation for over fifteen years has conferred on the Croton Point Vineyards, are offered to the public. Those who may purchase will receive such instructions for four years, as will enable them to cultivate the Grape with entire success provided their locality is not too far north.
All communications addressed to R. T. UNDERHILL, M. D., New-York, or Croton Point, Westchester County, N. Y., will receive attention.
The additional experience of three past seasons gives him full assurance that, by improved cultivation, pruning, &c., a crop of good fruit can be obtained every year, in most of the Northern, all of the Middle, Western and Southern States.
N. B.—To those who take sufficient to plant six acres, as he directs, he will, when they commence bearing, furnish the owner with one of his Vinedressers, whom he has instructed in his mode of cultivation, and he will do all the labor of the vineyard, and insure the most perfect success. The only charge, a reasonable compensation for the labor.
Also, APPLE-QUINCE TREES, (which are sometimes called the Orange Quince,) for sale as above.
109—112 R. T. U.

ARBOR VITÆ HEDGE PLANTS.—CHAPMAN JACKSON & CO., No. 55 William-st., N. Y., offer for sale a large quantity of AMERICAN ARBOR VITÆ, in fine condition, at the following prices: From 1 to 2 feet, $3 per hundred; 2 to 3 feet, $5 per hundred; 3 to 4 feet, $10 per hundred. Any quantity furnished to order. —112n54

WM. R. PRINCE & CO., FLUSHING, N. Y., offer for sale the CHINESE POTATO, Imperial Rice-white variety; tubers, in cans, at $5 and $10; or growing vigorously, ten inches high, in pots, at $6 for 6, and $12 per dozen, treatise on culture therewith; Licorice, for field culture, cheap in quantity; Earth Almonds, Chinese Sugar Cane Seeds, succeeds wherever Broom Corn does; Madder, Yellow and Honey Locust, Osage Orange, Evergreen and other Tree Seeds. An unrivaled collection of Trees and Plants of every kind. Sweet Almonds, Figs, Pomegranates, Lawton's and Imperial Blackberries, finest Raspberries, Gooseberries and Currants, premium Strawberries, surpassing all others; Grapes and Rhubarb, in quantity; Osier Scions, of finest kinds; 500,000 Evergreens, including Norway Spruce, for nurseries, at low rates. Priced catalogues for applicants. —112n55

WM. R. PRINCE & CO. announce that every applicant for the Chinese Potato *has been replied to* by stating *the price for tubers*, and that in no case have any roots been obtained from Europe, nor have any been sold in this country, except by cutting them into small pieces or eyes. We will pay $25 each for 100 roots. Any persons receiving tubers from us may return them if not satisfied. —112n56

AMERICAN INSTITUTE—FARMERS' CLUB.—WM. R. PRINCE having made a most ample report on the DIOSCORREA BATATAS, to this Institution, on the 18th March, refuting and annihilating the false statements which *ignorance, malice and stupidity* have palmed upon the public, will transmit his report to applicants. He also presented to the Farmers' Club, on April 8th, fine roots, firm and excellent, dug that day, which have withstood the rigor of the Winter, the severest ever known. —112n57

HORTICULTURAL TOOLS—A full assortment of Hedge and Vine Shears, Pruning Knives, Hoes, Rakes, Cultivators, Trowels, Forks, Watering Engines, &c. &c.

PLOWS—A large variety of patterns, among which are the most approved Sod, Stubble, Side-hill, Double-mold, Sub-soil, Lock Coulter, Self-Sharpener, &c.

CARTS AND WAGONS—With iron and wood axles, on hand or made to order, in the best and most serviceable manner.

DRAINING TOOLS of all sizes, and of the latest improvements. Spades, Scoops, &c.
For sale by R. L. ALLEN,
189 and 191 Water st., New-York.

$1000 PREMIUM

FOR BEST MOWING MACHINE, 1856.

THE Trustees of the "Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture" hereby give notice that the premium of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS for the best Mowing Machine, is now open to all competitors.

To entitle any one to compete for the Premium, he must enter the Mowing Machine, with full particulars of its principles of construction, weight, and selling price, with the subscriber, on or before the first day of JUNE, 1856.

Every competitor will be required, at his own cost, to exhibit to and submit a trial of his Machine to the Trustees, upon not less than five acres of grass land.

The Trustees likewise reserve the right of ordering further trials upon land of their selection, if they think it expedient or necessary to do so.

No competitor will be allowed to enter more than one Machine of a similar principle of construction, and he must have the legal right to make, sell and exhibit the same and those of a similar construction, for use within the State of Massachusetts.

The Trustees reserve the right of withholding the award of the Premium and continuing it for another year, if no Machine is exhibited which in their opinion, does not by its labor and expense-saving properties over the common method of scythe mowing, recommend itself for general introduction and use.

Any further information will be given to persons applying for the same, by addressing the subscriber.

THOMAS MOTLEY, Jr.,
March 15.—111—113n39 Jamaica Plain, Mass.

NEW-YORK AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE AND SEED STORE.

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS WILL find at my Warehouse every Implelement or Machine required on a PLANTATION, FARM, or GARDEN. In addition to the foregoing, I would all attention to the following, among many others:

VEGETABLE CUTTERS and VEGETABLE BOILERS, for cutting and boiling food for stock.

BUSH HOOKS and SCYTHES, ROOT-PULLERS, POST-HOLE AUGURS, OX YOKES, OX, LOG and TRACE CHAINS.

Grub Hoes,	Picks,	Shovels,
Spades,	Wheelbarrows,	Harrows,
Cultivators,	Road-Scrapers,	Grindstones,
Seed and Grain Drills,	Garden Engines.	

Sausage Cutters and Stuffers, Garden and Field Rollers, Mowing and Reaping Machines, Churns, Cheese Presses, Portable Blacksmith Forges, Bark Mills, Corn and Cob Crushers, Weather Vanes, Lightning Rods, Horticultural and Carpenters' Tool Chests.

Clover Hullers,	Saw Machines,	Cotton Gins,
Shingle Machines,	Scales,	Gin Gear.
Apple Parers,	Rakes,	Wire Cloth,
Hay and Manure Forks,	Belting for Machinery, &c.	

GRENOFLE HOSE.—A superior Hose, manufactured of the finest Hemp—a cheap and excellent substitute for Leather and Gutta Percha. It is especially recommended to Planters, Nurserymen, Fire Companies, Steamboats, Manufactories, Dwellings, &c. It costs less than half the price of leather, is lighter at sea as much pressure, is as durable, and is not subjected for its preservation to the expense of oiling or greasing, neither is it injured by frost.

For sale and orders for immortation received in sizes from 1 to 7 inches in diameter, by CHARLES LENZMANN, 54 Cedar-st., New-York, where certificates of its superior qualities can be examined, from Alfred Carson Esq., Chief Engineer of the New-York Fire Department; from James McFarlan, Esq., Chief Engineer of the Union Ferry Co., and also from official authorities of some of the large cities of Europe. —112n59

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS; FIELD and GARDEN SEEDS; No. 1 PERUVIAN GUANO; SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME; CHARCOAL DUST; POUDRETTE; PLASTER for land purposes; BONE, fine and coarse, &c.

MAGIC CORN AND COB MILL.—This mill has improvements over all other corn mills, and requires less power. For sale at the North River Agricultural Warehouse. GRIFFING, BROTHER & CO.,
110—112n22 60 Courtlandt-st., New-York.

SEED POTATOES.—Several best varieties.
Black and White Seed Oats.
Spring Wheat.
Spring Rye.
Seed Barley.
Field Peas, Seed Corn, and a large assortment of fresh and reliable Garden seeds, for sale by
R. L. ALLEN 189 and 191 Water-st.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS.—The undersigned, having long experience as Engineers, will pay attention to those branches of their profession connected with Agriculture, viz: Land Surveying and Mapping, the arrangement and construction of houses and farm buildings.—DRAINING and IRRIGATION in all their branches. Also, the adaptation of all machinery necessary for agricultural purposes, including steam engines, wind and water mills, water rams, force pumps, &c. Materials and machinery purchased on commission. SHIPMAN & HAMMOND.
111—121n48 No. 63 Trinity Buildings, 111 Broadway, N. Y.

PLOWS of all kinds. Wrought Iron Plows, and Plows with wrought iron Points.

LITTLE GIANT and other Corn and Cob Crushers

BURR STONE and Iron Grain Mills.

HARROWS; Hay and Stalk Cutters.

SEED SOWERS, &c., in great variety.

FIELD and Garden Seeds.

GUANO, Bone Dust, Poudrette, Superphosphate of Lime, &c.

ALLEN'S IMPROVED MOWER, AND MOWER AND REAPER—the best in America.

A large assortment of the most approved Agricultural and Horticultural implements, of good quality and at low prices,
For sale by R. L. ALLEN,
109— 189 and 191 Water-st., New-York.

ALLEN'S MOWER,

THE BEST IN THE UNITED STATES.

To be sure of a Machine you should order at once.

We give a few from more than one hundred testimonials, copies of which can be had on application.

R. L. ALLEN, N. Y.—I have used Allen's Mower for two seasons, and have cut 70 to 80 tons fodder each season. We have used it in light and heavy grass, over rough and level surface, in wet and dry. The machine has succeeded admirably. It has not cost me $2 in two years. It is the best and most perfect mower I ever saw work, being of easy draught, and requiring no more than ordinary walk of horses to do the work well, cutting the grass as low and more level than any hand-mowing. I can cut with ease 12 acres in a day; and, with two horses, weighing 2 100 pounds, (the two) can follow it day after day. I should like to see any improvement that may come along; but if I could not get such another as Allen's, I would not part with it for $1,000—indeed, for any money. I have had numbers of farmers see my mower work, and they all admit it is the best they ever saw work. JOHN GILES.
Woodstock, Conn., Oct. 25, 1855.

R. L. ALLEN, Sir:—I do not think a better mowing machine can be made than your Allen's Improved. I cut 19 tons of hay off 8 acres with it, and I was only four hours cutting it. Much of the grass was badly lodged and tangled; indeed, I had no idea that a mowing machine would work in it at all. The grass was cut in first-rate style, and no clogging. I have cut, in all, 60 acres, without a cent cost for repairs. It is easy of draught to the horses, and they can be walked slow or quick. It is compact and durable, and easily managed. I saw it worked at Flushing, in June last, when four different patent mowers were worked beside it. I was certainly impartial in my desire to choose the best machine; and I chose yours, (Allens,) as none of them could compare with it in the qualities I have named.
Patchogue, L. I., Nov. 10, 1855. AUSTIN ROE.

R. L. ALLEN, N. Y., Sir:—I can highly recommend your Allen Mower. It is easy draught for a pair of horses. I have used it in very heavy and lodged grass; it cut without clogging, and better than could be done with a scythe. It is durable, compact, and easily managed. FROST HORTON,
Of the firm of Minor & Horton.
Peekskill, N. Y., Nov. 2, 1855.

ATKINS' AUTOMATON:

OR,

SELF-RAKING REAPER AND MOWER,

BEST MACHINE IN USE.

1 (the first) used in 1852.
40 used successfully in 1853.
300 in twenty different States in 1854.
1200 in all parts of the Union in 1855.
3000 building for the harvest of 1856.

THERE ARE SIX GOOD REASONS for this unparalleled increase and great popularity: 1st. It is strong and reliable, and easily managed. 2d. It saves the hard labor of Raking. 3d. It saves at least another hand in binding. 4th. It saves shattering by the careful handling in raking; besides, the straw being laid straight, it is well secured in the sheaf, and does not drop in the after handling, and the heads are not exposed in the stack, so that the GRAIN SAVING even exceeds the LABOR SAVING. 5th. It is a good Mower, being one of the best convertible machines in use. 6th. It has a knife that does not choke.

Its other excellencies, too numerous to mention here, are fairly given in the circulars. Its intrinsic worth is also attested by the award (mostly in only 3 years) of

OVER 70 FIRST PREMIUMS!

PRICE.—Reaper and Mower, $200—$75 on its receipt, $75 first September, and $50 first December. Price of Self-Raking Reaper only $175. Considerable saving in freight to those at a distance who order prior to 1st March; also liberal discount for advance payment.

To secure a Machine, order immediately. Though so little known the past season, and none ready for delivery till 1st May, yet not two-thirds the customers could be supplied. The reputation of the machine is now widely established, so that THREE THOUSAND will not as nearly supply the demand as twelve hundred did last year, and we shall also be selling four months earlier

☞ Order early, if you would not be disappointed.

Pamphlets giving IMPARTIALLY the opinions of Farmers, together with orders, notes, &c., mailed to applicants, and prepaid.

☞ Write to us at Chicago, Ill.; Dayton, Ohio, or Baltimore, Md., whichever is nearest to you.

J. S. WRIGHT & CO.
"Prairie Farmer" Works, Chicago, Feb. 20, 1856, 110-113n27

PORTABLE FORGES AND BELLOWS,

(QUEENS PATENT.)

THE best Forge in market for Blacksmiths' work, Boiler makers, Mining, Quarrying, Shipping, plantations, Contractors on Railroads and Public Works, Coppersmiths, Gas Fitters, &c., &c.

Also, an improved PORTABLE MELTING FURNACE for Jewellers, Dentists, Chemists, &c.

Both of these are constructed with sliding doors to protect the fire from wind and rain when used out doors, and for perfect safety and free escape of smoke when used indoors. They are compact for Shipping.

Circulars with particulars and prices will be forwarded upon application.

FREDERICK P. FLAGLER,
Sole Manufacturer, 216 Water-st., New-York.
85—116n1190N8

FARM LANDS FOR SALE.

THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY

IS NOW PREPARED TO SELL

OVER TWO MILLION OF ACRES

OF

FARMING LANDS,

IN TRACTS OF FORTY ACRES AND UPWARD,

ON LONG CREDIT AND AT LOW RATES OF INTEREST.

These lands were granted by the Government, to aid in the construction of this Railroad, and include some of the richest and most fertile prairies in the State, interspersed here and there with magnificent groves of oak and other timber. The road extends from Chicago, on the northeast, to Cairo at the south, and from thence to Galena and Dunleith, in the northwest extreme of the State, and as all the lands lie within fifteen miles on each side of this road, ready and cheap means are afforded by it for transporting the products of the lands to any of those points, and from thence to Eastern and Southern markets. Moreover, the rapid growth of flourishing towns and villages along the line, and the great increase in population by immigration, etc., afford a substantial and growing home demand for farm produce.

The soil is a dark, rich mould, from one to five feet in depth, is gently rolling, and peculiarly fitted for grazing cattle and sheep, or the cultivation of wheat, Indian corn, etc.

Economy in cultivating, and great productiveness, are the well-known characteristics of Illinois lands. Trees are not required to be cut down, stumps grubbed, or stone picked off, as is generally the case in cultivating new land in the older States. The first crop of Indian corn, planted on the newly broken sod, usually repays the cost of plowing and fencing.

Wheat sown on the newly-turned sod is sure to yield very large profits. A man with a plow and two yoke of oxen will break one and a half to two acres per day. Contracts can be made for breaking, ready for corn or wheat, at from $2 to $2 50 per acre. By judicious management, the land may be plowed and fenced the first, and under a high state of cultivation the second year.

Corn, grain, cattle, etc., will be forwarded at reasonable rates to Chicago, for the Eastern market, and to Cairo for the Southern. The larger yield on the cheap lands of Illinois over the high-priced lands in the Eastern and Middle States, is known to be much more than sufficient to pay the difference of transportation to the Eastern market.

Bituminous coal is mined at several points along the road, and is a cheap and desirable fuel. It can be delivered at several points along the road at $1 50 to $4 per ton. Wood can be had at the same rates per cord.

Those who think of settling in Iowa or Minnesota, should bear in mind, that lands there of any value, along the water courses, and for many miles inland, have been disposed of—that for those located in the interior, there are no conveniences for transporting the produce to market, railroads not have been introduced there. That to send the produce of these lands one or two hundred miles by wagon to market, would cost much more than the expense of cultivating them; and hence, Government lands thus situated, at $1 25 per acre, are not so good investments as the land of this Company at the prices fixed.

The same remarks hold good in relation to the lands in Kansas and Nebraska, for although vacant lands may be found nearer the water courses, the distance to market is far greater, and every hundred miles the produce of those lands are carried either in wagons or interrupted water communications, increases the expenses of transportation, which must be borne by the settlers, in the reduced price of their products; and to that extent precisely are the incomes from their farms, and of course, on their investments, annually and every year reduced.

The great fertility of the lands now offered for sale by this Company, and their consequent yield over those of the Eastern and Middle States, is much more than sufficient to pay the difference in the cost of transportation, especially in view of the facilities furnished by this road and others with which it connects, the operation of which are not interrupted by the low water of Summer, or the frost of Winter.

PRICE AND TERMS OF PAYMENT.

The price will vary from $5 to $25, according to location, quality, etc. Contracts for deeds may be made during the year 1856, stipulating the purchase money to be paid in five annual installments. The first to become due in two years from the date of contract, and the others annually thereafter. The last payment will become due at the end of the sixth year from the date of the contract.

Interest will be charged at only three per cent. per annum.

As a security to the performance of the contract, the first two years' interest must be paid in advance, and it must be understood that at least one-tenth of the land purchased shall yearly be brought under cultivation. Twenty per cent. from the credit price will be deducted for cash. The Company's construction bonds will be received as cash.

Ready Framed Farm Buildings, which can be set up in a few days, can be obtained from responsible persons.

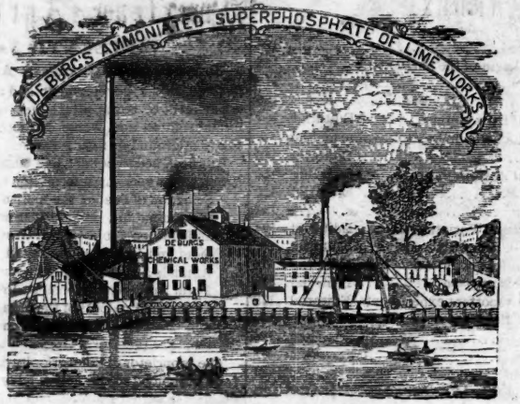
They will be twelve feet by twenty feet, divided into one living and three bedrooms, and will cost, complete, set up on ground chosen anywhere along the road, $150 in cash, exclusive of transportation. Larger buildings may be contracted for at proportionate rates. The Company will forward all the materials for such buildings over their road promptly.

Special arrangements with dealers can be made to supply those purchasing the Company's lands with fencing materials, agricultural tools, and an outfit of provisions in any quantity, at the lowest wholesale prices.

It is believed that the price, long credit, and low rate of interest charged for these lands, will enable a man with a few hundred dollars in cash, and ordinary industry, to make himself independent before all the purchase money becomes due. In the mean time, the rapid settlement of the country will probably have increased their value four or five fold. When required, an experienced person will accompany applicants, to give information and aid in selecting lands.

Circulars containing numerous instances of successful farming, signed by respectable and well-known farmers living in the neighborhood of the Railroad lands throughout the State—also, the cost of fencing, price of cattle, expense of harvesting, threshing, etc., by contract—or any other information—will be cheerfully given, on application, either personally or by letter, in English, French, or German, addressed to

JOHN WILSON,
Land Commissioner of the Illinois Central Railroad Co.
Office, up to the 1st of May, No. 52 Michigan Avenue, Chicago Ill. After that date, in the new stone Passenger Depot, foot South Water-street. 112—117n5



DE BURG'S
AMMONIATED SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME.

THE attention of Farmers and Planters is respectfully called to the above invaluable compound, for their approaching spring planting.

The Manufacturer begs to assure his friends and patrons, that they may always depend upon being supplied with a Genuine and UNIFORM article, for he constantly superintends, in person, the entire process of manufacture and putting up for sale.

This article has now been before the community for a period of five years, during which time it has been analyzed by a large number of Chemists in different places; has been TRIED by farmers upon every kind of soil, in nearly every State in the Union, with almost unvarying success.

In response to my proposition, two years since, to allow any responsible farmers or Agricultural Societies to take, free of cost, a quantity of it wherever they might find it on sale, and give it the most searching practical trials, I am happy to be able to statethat many of the most influential Agricultural Societies have made such trials, and have pronounced their unqualified approbation of it as a valuable and paying manure.

Please refer, for proof of this, among others, to the Reports of the "Massachusetts State Farm" for 1855, and for the present year.

Perhaps one of the best proofs of its value is the greatly increased demand, unprecedented in the history of artificial fertilizers, and not equaled by guano itself. I have now (Feb. 1st(orders for more than $100,000 worth, received since the commencement of the present year, but having greatly enlarged my works, adding the new factories of which a water-side view is given above, I hope to be able to supply orders to any extent that may be required.

As there are a large number of Superphosphates in market, for the *value* of which I would not like to be responsible, I earnestly request all purchasing to be careful to get the GENUINE article, either from myself or my accredited agents, who are always of acknowledged respectability. For the Superphosphate purchased from such houses, I hold myself responsible for its good character.

The Superphosphate is packed in bags holding 150 lbs. each, and in barrels containing about 300 lbs. each. No charge is made for bags or barrels. In small quantities I will deliver it —cartage free—on board any vessel or railroad leaving New-York City.

CASH PRICE, $50 per tun of 2,000 lbs.

Orders (stating whether in bags or barrels) to be addressed to

C. B. DEBURG, (Sole Proprietor and Manufacturer,)
Williamsburg, L. I.
(Factories two blocks south of Peck-slip Ferry.)

N. B.—Pamphlets with full directions sent on application.
109—116n

SHEEP FOR SALE.

Two SHANGHAI RAMS and one Thoroughbred SOUTHDOWN.

Apply to WILLIAM CAIRNS,
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LARGE LOP-EARED RABBITS.—The

above Rabbits for sale, in pairs or single. They are beautifully marked of various colors, and are pure and well bred.

Address, S. W. RODMAN, Boston, Mass.,
1247n108—9 Or the Editor of this Paper.

CHOICE POULTRY.—SEED POTATOES.—The subscriber has for sale ASIATIC, SEA-

BRIGHT BANTAMS and GAME FOWLS, at very reasonable rates—all warranted PURE.

I can also furnish the superior CLINTON POTATOES at $1 per peck. All orders promptly attended to.

WM. FULMER,
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SHORT HORN BULL FOR SALE.

SACHEM, (935) American Herd Book, vol. 2d, got by imported Wolviston, (1109) a Princess Tribe Bull, bred by Mr. Stephenson, of Durham, England. Sachem is three years old, past, and a very fine animal in all respects, and has proved himself a first-rate stock getter. A yearling bull and a few cows also for sale. J. F SHEAFE,
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THOROUGH-BRED DEVON CATTLE,

AND ESSEX PIGS, FOR SALE.

The subscriber now offers for sale a few superior Devon Heifers, bred by himself entirely from recently imported stock, and in calf by his last imported bull, "OMER PASHA," winner of the FIRST PRIZE, as yearling, at the Royal Show of England in 1855; as also a number of young Bulls and heifers, the get of his three imported Bulls "MEGUNTICOOK," "MAY-BOY,' and "OMER PASHA," and out of imported Cows, or their progeny.

Also, constantly on hand, ESSEX PIGS, bred from the best imported stock.

For full particulars as to age, price, pedigree, &c., address,

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VALUABLE AND CHEAP PROPERTY

FOR SALE IN MORRISTOWN, N. J.

The subscriber offers his property for sale. The improvements are one new two-story House, with tin roof, containing seven rooms, beside garret and cellar the full size of the house.

There are nearly four acres of good clay ground, with a never-failing stream of water running through; located on the Washington Turnpike within three minutes walk of the Railroad depot. The garden is well stocked with Fruit Trees of the choicest varieties, particularly Pears. There is also a very valuable orchard of bearing Orange Quince trees—nearly 100.

A rare opportunity for a cash purchaser. Title indisputable.
110tfn21 WM. DAY.

PERUVIAN GUANO—*At lowest market*

prices, wholesale and retail—with Government weight and brand on each bag, for sale at the AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT AND SEED Warehouse of R. L. ALLEN,
Nos. 189 and 191 Water-st., New-York.

ALLEN'S CELEBRATED MOWING MACHINE
CANNOT CLOG.

THE LAWTON BLACKBERRY is the

queen of all berries—of most magnificent proportions, exquisite flavor, and delicate texture.—*Springfield, Mass., Republican, Sept* 4, 1855.

Description of the Plant.—This is an original and entirely distinct variety, and not, as some suppose, the "New Rochelle Blackberry," improved by cultivation (the plants which abound in that neighborhood being no better than those growing wild in every other part of the country.) It differs in shape, size and quality from every other known variety. For descriptive circulers and general directions for garden culture, forming plantations and pruning, address, WM. LAWTON,
New-Rochelle, N. Y., or No. 54 Wall-st.

N. B.—Plants will be furnished at a reduced rate to societies and clubs. 111—tfn42

A WORD TO FARMERS AND DAIRY-

MEN.—If you have butter, poultry, eggs, or any other articles of table use, which you will sell low for cash please apply to the principal Express Agent in your neighborhood. Likely, we will put him in funds to buy of you if we can agree upon prices.

We are in want of half a tun of nice turkeys, chickens and geese, every week, at our Express Produce Store. No. 33 Broadway. A tun or two of first rate table butter, upon consignment, to sell to consumers would be very acceptable.

Commission for effecting sales, for cash, five per cent, and NO OTHER CHARGES WHATEVER.

A. L. STIMSON,
Agent for the Sale of Farmers' Produce, and the purchase of Goods ordered by Express, No. 33 Broadway, New-York.

REFERENCES—The American Express Company; Wells, Butterfield & Co.; the Adams Express Company; the National Express Company; Thompson & Co.'s Express; and Cheney, Fiske & Co.'s. 110tfn32

THE SCHOOL BELL,

A LARGE QUARTO WEEKLY PAPER, designed for the amusement and instruction of youth, containing choice stories, poetry, games, puzzles, familiar science, and the news of the day, adapted to the wants and wishes of scholars in our public and private schools. Edited and published BY STEPHEN ANGELL, Morrisania, N. Y.

TERMS.—Single copy, by mail, a year, 75 cents; five copies, $3; ten copies, $5, and at same rate for larger numbers.

We will send ten copies for ten weeks, to one address, for one dollar, and at the end of that time the subscription can be renewed.

Twenty copies, postage paid to any part of the United States, $13, and at the same rate for that number for a shorter period—thus, for $1, we send 20 copies free of postage for one month

Postage on the School Bell, throughout Westchester Co., free; within the State, 31-4 cents a quarter, paid in advance; and to any part of the United States, 6 1-2 cents.

THE "CALIFORNIA FARMER," devot-

ed to Agriculture, Stock Breeding, and the useful sciences Subscriptions received at the Resident Editor's Office, No. 119 Washington-st., Boston. Sample copies sent when ordered.

SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME—Of

Hoyt, DeBurg, and Mapes's manufacture.

BEST No. 1 Peruvian GUANO.

BONE DUST, ground and sawings.

Poudrette, Tafeu, Plaster of Paris.

Purchasers may depend upon getting these manures of best quality. For sale by R. L. ALLEN,
189 and 191 Water-st., New-York.

1000 TUNS OF DEBURG'S NO. 1

SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME.

We take pleasure in informing the Agricultural community that we are Sole Agents in the State of Pennsylvania for DEBURG'S Original and Genuine SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME, warranted of superiority, the cheapest manure in the world. Farmers and Dealers supplied at low prices.

EXTRA QUALITY LAND PLASTER.

5,000 barrels Extra Quality Land Plaster, selected for its fertilizing qualities.
10,000 bushels of same in bulk.
10,000 barrels best quality Ordinary Land Plaster, equal to the best usually sold, at the low price of 20 cts. per bushel, or $1 10 cents per barrel, with a deduction for large lots.
25,000 bushels of same in bulk.
1,000 barrels Calcined Plaster.
1,000 barrels Casting Plaster.
500 barrels Dentist Plaster.
5,000 barrels Hydraulic Cement.
1,000 barrels True Roman Cement.

PERUVIAN GUANO, POUDRETTE, MEXICAN GUANO, GROUND CHARCOAL, &c.

FRENCH, RICHARDS & CO.

At the Steam Plaster Mills, junction of York-avenue and Callowhill-st., Philadelphia, Pa. 110—12r.31

TO FARMERS AND GARDENERS.—

Your attention is called to the Manures manufactured by the LODI MANUFACTURING COMPANY from the contents of the sinks and privies of New-York city, and free from offensive odor, called

POUDRETTE AND TAFEU.

Poudrette is composed of two-thirds night soil and one-third decomposed vegetable fiber. Tafeu is composed of three-fourths night soil and one-fourth No. 1 Peruvian Guano

These manures are cheaper and better adapted for raising Corn, Garden Vegetables and Grass, than any other in market. Can be put in contact with the seed without injury, and causes Corn and seeds to come up sooner, ripen two weeks earlier, and yield one-third more than other manures, and is a SURE PREVENTIVE of the Cut Worm.

Two bbls. Poudrette or 100 lbs Tafeu, will manure an acre of Corn in the hill. Tafeu 1¼ cents per pound. Poudrette $2 per barrel, or $1 50 for any quantity over seven barrels, delivered on board vessel or railroad free from any charge for package or cartage. A pamphlet, containing every information, sent, post-paid, to any one sending their address to

THE LODI MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
109—113n17 No. 60 Courtlandt-st., New-York.

FISH GUANO.—The NARRAGANSETT

MANUFACTUING COMPANY, of Providence, R. I., are now prepared to execute orders for their FISH GUANO. They have prepared their Guano after two methods. One by chemically treating, cooking and then drying and grinding the fish to a powder. This is put in bags and sold at $45 per tun. The other variety is prepared as above (with the exception of drying and grinding), and is then combined with an absorbant which is in itself a valuable fertilizer, and sold at two dollars per bbl. containing about 200 lbs. The compost is of great strength, and must be a very efficient fertilizer, as it is composed in great part of simple flesh and bones of fish.

Dr. Charles T. Jackson, of Boston, has made an analysis of the Powder, and says:

"It is similar to the Peruvian Guano in composition, with the exception that the ammonial matter is dried flesh, of fish, and not yet putrefied, so as to be ammoniacal. It will, however, produce ammonia by decomposition in the soil. One hundred grains of this manure, dried and finely pulverized, was submitted to analysis, with the following result:

ANALYSIS.

Ammonial matter (flesh or fish)	48.00
Phosphate of Lime	35 90
Carbonate of Lime	7.60
Sulphate of Lime	6.40
Potash of Soda	4.10
	100.00

Respectfully your obedient servant,
CHARLES T. JACKSON,
Assayer to the State of Massachusetts."

Dr. Jackson's opinion of our Guano is expressed in the following note:

Boston, March 9, 1855.

S. B. HALLIDAY, Esq.—Dear sir: In reply to your letter, I would state my entire confidence in the superiority of a properly prepared artificial guano, made from fishes, over that of the natural guano of birds, obtained from the coast of Peru.

It is obvious that more of the nitro geneous, or ammonia-producing substances, exist in fish prepared after your method, than are found in any guano, and hence the artificial preparation will go further in the fertilization of a soil.

The ammoniacal salts act chiefly in bringing the foliage into a healthy and luxuriant condition, and thus causes the plant to absorb more of the phosphate and other necessary salts and substances from the soil, and more carbonic acid from the air. The carbonate of ammonia, also, is a solvent for humus, and it quickly saturates any injurious acid salts that may exist in the soil, and forms from some of them valuable fertilizers.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
C. T. JACKSON, M. D., Statate Assayer, &c.

This manure is offered to agriculturists with the assurance of its becoming one of the most popular to be obtained. The Company are ready to establish agencies at such places as are desirable for the convenience of farmers. As the supply for the season is rather limited, the Company would esteem it a favor to have orders forwarded early to enable them to lay down at their agencies the requisite quantities in proper time for use. Orders may be addressed to to the Company at Providence, or to R. L. Allen, New-York; R. H. Pease, Albany; Geo. Buck, Hartford.

S. B. HALLIDAY, Agent,
No. 22 West Water-st., Providence, R. I.
Providence, Jan. 15, 1856. 109—114n16

PATRICK'S BOY BABY.

The following story is here printed, for the first time, as far as we know. All other periodicals copying it, except Harper's Magazine, are requested to give due credit to the American Agriculturist. Patrick was, theoretically, a devout member of the church, but so far as attending to its ordinances was concerned, he left all such matters to his other half. It happened, on a time, that a new-comer in the family required christening, according to custom and belief with Patrick, but the mother was unable to attend to it *this* time; so calling her lord to the bedside she gave him sundry and particular directions as to his deportment in church, and the manner of presenting the child for the ordinance, &c. At the appointed hour, Patrick set out for church, and remembered his instruction so far as to present the child at the chancel, but here his presence of mind and memory failed him. The Priest had gone so far as to call out twice, "Name this child!" but not a word could Patrick get from the end of his tongue. To help him out of this difficulty the Priest whispered in his ear, "Say John," and "John," he said. The ceremony proceeded, "John, I baptize thee, &c." After it was over, and Patrick having become somewhat composed, walked leisurely down the aisle toward the door, and was heard to soliloquize, "Well! well! I wonder what the old woman will say. We have one 'John' *at home*, now, and besides, this is a *girl*."

RATHER HARD ROWING.—Away down in North Carolina, on the Northeast river, three tipsy fellows went on board their small boat, late one night, and commenced rowing for home, a few miles up stream. After tugging at the oars for some three hours, and seeing through the dim, gray light of the breaking morning, a house upon the side of the river, they concluded to go on shore and ascertain there whereabouts. The result of their observations was, that they had not untied the rope, but had been pulling at the oars all night without moving an inch.

HOW TO BE HAPPY.—1st. A man out of money can't be happy. 2d. A man without a wife can't be happy. 3d. A man out of health can't be happy.

Therefore I have come to the conclusion, that the best way to be happy is to take care of your health, keep out of debt, and get a wife.—Journal of Health.

A life of piety is the only truly happy life.

To be angry with a weak man is a proof that you are not very strong yourself.

They who respect themselves will be honored; but they who do not care about their character, will be despised.

A word once spoken, a coach with four horses cannot overtake it and bring it back.

The habit of thought chiefly points out a wise man from a foolish man.

An idle boy will probably make a mean old man.

Why was St. Paul like a horse? Because he loved *Timothy*.

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Business Notices.

☞ Persons forwarding money by mail may consider the arrival of the paper an acknowledgment of the receipt of the money.

☞ BACK NUMBERS AND BACK VOLUMES.—We have no more of these to spare, previous to Vol. XII—our entire extra edition up to that time having been exhausted.

Of Vols. XII, XIII and XIV, we have several SETS, which will be furnished so long as they last, at $1, unbound, or $1 50, neatly bound in muslin.

Of the present Volume, previous to March, we have only complete SETS from No. 1, (October,) with a few extra copies of October, November and December, but none of January and February—the unexpected number of new subscribers beginning with the year having exhausted all the copies of those two months, except such as are kept in full sets.

New subscribers, or those renewing, can begin with March or April, until the remaining few hundred extra copies of those months are exhausted, AFTER WHICH, new subscriptions must begin with May, or any future number that may be desired.

☞ ASK AGENTS FOR RECEIPTS.—The AUTHORIZED AGENTS of the American Agriculturist are furnished with the regular printed Office receipts, which are signed with a pen at the bottom and upon the left margin, by the Proprietor. When these are presented, no one need have the least hesitancy in receiving them, as they are given out only to responsible persons.

American Agriculturist.

FIFTEENTH VOLUME

A Leading and Standard Agricultural Journal, devoted to the development and improvement of every department of Soil Culture, and adapted equally to the circumstances and wants of those who cultivate SMALL PLOTS of ground or LARGE FARMS.

It is designed to collect and communicate PLAIN, PRACTICAL, and RELIABLE information upon the

Selection of Seeds; the BEST method of preparing the ground for, and cultivating the various Field and Garden Crops; Fruit Growing; Care, Treatment and Improvement of all kinds of Domestic Animals; the Construction and Embellishment of Farm Buildings; Housing, Preserving, and Marketing the Products of the Farm, Orchard, Garden and Dairy; and to the Domestic or Household labors of the Rural Home.

The proprietor of the Agriculturist—having been trained from childhood to the active labors of a large farm embracing a varied culture, and having devoted a dozen years to studying the principles lying at the foundation of improved soil culture in schools, in the field, in the laboratory, and in traveling for observation—trusts that he will be able to set before the readers of this journal such a collection of sound and practical information as will be to each a continual source of valuable knowledge.

Having no connection, directly or indirectly, with any other business whatever, and owning and controling the columns of this paper, the Editor claims to be entirely independent of all influences which, under other circumstances, might be supposed to modify or govern his opinions or teachings.

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